BIRTH CONTROL

Its Social, Political, Economic, Moral and Religious Aspects

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ISLAMIC PUBLICATIONS (PVT.) LIMITED
13 E, Shahalam Market, Lahore (Pakistan)

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

FOREWORD

Every age has its slogan and cliches. 'Birth Control' is one of those to which the modern age is addicted. There may be, and we believe there are, many who honestly and sincerely believe in it. We disagree with them strongly, but respect their opinion unhesitatingly. But there are many who are simply victims of a propaganda war that is being waged in favour of this concept. It seems that certain forces are bent upon thrusting this idea on the people, particularly on the emerging nations of the East. All the vehicles of propaganda and persuasion, in certain cases even of pressure and persecution, are being employed to make the people conform to this heresy of our times. The other view-point is not being allowed to articulate itself. Arguments are not being met with arguments; they are being contested with ridicules, allegations, snubs and even force and violence. What was done to the present book is just an instance in view. It was originally written in the middle of 1930's and serialised in the *Tarjumanul Qur'an*, a monthly journal edited by Maulana Maududi. In 1943 it appeared in book-form and ran in several editions. In 1962 a revised and enlarged edition was brought out and its several editions were published during the last five years. The protagonists of birth control had been uneasy over this book; but, they never dared to meet the arguments advanced in it. They wanted to stop it from circulation by resort to other

methods—by stifling this voice of sanity. In 1966 they banned under the Defence of Pakistan Rules a pamphlet which contained a chapter of this book. And in November, 1966, the book itself was proscribed by the Government of West Pakistan. The Publishers challenged the decision in the High Court of West Pakistan and the Court has now declared the decision of the Government as void. The book is once again on the book-stalls, the efforts to curb it apart. This is a new kind of inquisition which is staged in the name of modernity and progress!

What type of a book it is, we have nothing to say. It speaks for itself. Our only claim is that we want a debate on the rational plane, in an academic fashion. We have presented our viewpoint in a scholarly way, and would welcome criticism which is prepared to meet us on the plane of scholarship. The rest we simply ignore.

As we have already stated, the book was published in 1943. It was thoroughly revised by the author in 1962, with the assistance of one of the present editors. It was contemplated to further revise and enlarge it and the work had already begun when the guillotine fell. The translators have used the revised text and as such this version is more upto date than the presently available Urdu work. The translation has been completed at a time when the author was in prison. Like most of the top political leaders of the emerging nations he too has his second home in the jail. Eversince the attainment of freedom he is being made to pay the price of his independence of thought and forthrightness of character by being again and again thrown behind the bars. This is the fourth time—and this time because he, with other leading *Ulama* of Pakistan, was not prepared

to endorse a decision of the *Ruyat-e-Hilal* Committee (a Government appointed body for the sighting of the moon), that was patently wrong. This be as it is, it was not possible for the editors to show the script to the author. They, however, take full responsibility for the work they have done.

While translating the book they had to face one difficulty. Some of the original references; taken from books and journals of the 1930's were not available. In all such cases the substance of the statement has been reproduced in our own words and quotation marks have not been used. In such cases full references in foot-notes too could not be given. Proper authentication has been done for the rest of the material.

One more point deserves to be clarified. A large number of Western scholars and researchers have been quoted in this work. There are places where their views have been referred to, and every effort has been made to present them in their own words. It is not necessary that we agree with all of their views on the subject, every reference is in relation to a particular point and its relevance should be kept to that specific point only. In certain cases we have referred to different studies, not for the inferences derived there in from the data and evidence they have collected but for using the evidence or the data they contain; we have derived our own inferences from the material. The reader is requested to keep these points in view.

The editors have divided the present book in two parts. Part I contains the analysis given by Maulana Maududi. A brief discussion on those *ahadeeth* which relate to *'azl* (*coitus interruptus*) has been dropped for most of the

English readers are not expected to be aware of the controversy on that technical point. The substance of the arguments has, however, been incorporated in the concluding chapter of this part. Part II contains only one article. This was written by Khurshid Ahmad and appeared in the Urdu book as Appendix II. Every effort has been made to maintain a uniform system of referencing.

The editors express their thanks to their colleagues at the Islamic Research Academy, Karachi, for helping them in this work and Chaudhry Ghulam Muhammad for his constant encouragement. Mr. Shahzad Muhammad typed the script again and again and we are grateful to him for his untiring effort.

We conclude this Foreword with the prayer: O God! If we have erred in respect of any matter, protect the people from that and forgive us; and if we have conveyed the truth to Thy servants, open their hearts to the word of truth, enable them to stand for it and let the truth triumph. All praise be to the Lord of the Universe.

Karachi: March 10, 1967

KHURSHID AHMAD
MISBAHUL ISLAM FARUQI

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

THE Birth Control Movement has been gaining momentum in the Indo-Pak subcontinent for the last forty years or so.[1] Organisations have been established and magazines are being brought out to preach its dogma, to mould the public opinion in its favour and to acquaint the people with its methods and techniques. It was Mrs. Edith Howe Martyn, the Directress of the "London Birth-Control International Information", who initiated the movement in this subcontinent. She made an extensive tour of this region to organise a publicity-campaign in favour of the movement. Some time later, Dr. Hutton, the Census Commissioner for India for the census of 1931, in his report, averred that population of India was increasing at an alarming pace and he therefore, emphasised, the need for popularising birth control devices. Later on a "Muslim" member of the Council of State, in the then undivided India, drew the attention of the Government to adopt some practical measures to check the increasing population of India.

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1. The modern name of this movement is "Planned Parenthood". The new term was coined in America and gradually it replaced the old name. In 1942, the name of the "Birth-Control Federation of America" was changed to "Planned Parenthood Federation of America" (see *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1955, Vol. III, p. 647). Still another and more convenient name for the movement is "Family Planning Movement". This was most probably adopted to facilitate the sale of this idea to the Asiatic countries. The switch over to the new term was done on the occasion of a conference held in 1942 in Sweden to step up the movement in Asia.

Although the suggestion was rejected by the Government the All-India Women Association, Lucknow, adopted a resolution supporting the proposal. The Municipal Corporations of Karachi and Bombay discussed ways and means for imparting practical training in this respect. At Mysore, Madras and certain other places, clinics were opened for this purpose. Indeed it became quite apparent that like so many other things imported from the West, this new movement too would shortly gain foothold in the subcontinent. And it did.

Soon after India and Pakistan achieved independence, the Governments of both the countries lost no time in directly or indirectly adopting birth control as a part of their national policies.[2] Now the movement is being peddled in full swing.

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2. The Indian National Congress was committed to a policy of family planning. The National Planning Committee it had set up during the World War II and which was presided over by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who later became the first Prime Minister of India, had declared in one of its resolutions that "In the interest of social economy, family happiness and national planning, family planning and a limitation of children are essential, and the State should adopt a policy to encourage them." (*Population*, National Planning Committee, Bombay, 1947, p. 6). The Indian Planning Commission adopted this policy in the First Five Year Plan (*see The First Five Year Plan—A Draft Outline*, Government of India Planning Commission, Delhi, 1951, pp. 206–7) and is being pursued ever-since. In Pakistan the Government's attitude was rather wavering during the early years and only indirect means were used to foster the movement. Private organisations worked towards this end but no budgetary provision was made in this respect. The Central budget for the year 1957–58 contained a lump sum provision of Rs. 5 million for Family Planning. There was a lot of protest against this within the parliament and outside it. The First Five Year Plan did not make any specific allocation about family planning. The report, however, observed that : "We realise that a visible effect of such measures can be felt only after some years. It is also realised that negligible results would be achieved until the family planning programme reaches a large proportion of the population. Nevertheless

—*Contd.*

So far as India is concerned, she claims to be a "secular state"; and as such her policies need no religious sanction behind them.[3] But since Pakistan is an Islamic State, effort is being made to somehow prove that this movement is completely in accord with Islam. Even instruments of force and repression are being used against those who refuse to toe this official line. But to remain silent in this situation is unpardonable. It is the duty of those who possess knowledge of Islamic law to present their view-point in a rational and scientific way. Hence the necessity for a treatise like this.

Before entering into discussion over the problem from the religious point of view, it seems very necessary to understand the movement itself. How it sprang up? What factors contributed towards its

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measures to this effect should be initiated now so that evils of under-feeding and over-crowding may not undo the efforts for the provision of a better life to the nation. The country must appreciate that population growth is a rock on which all hopes of improved conditions of living may founder. It admits of no approach except that the rates of growth must be low." (*The First Five Year Plan*, 1955–60; Government of Pakistan, National Planning Board, Dec. 1957, p. 192). The present regime in Pakistan has adopted birth control as an objective of economic policy and is systematically introducing it on a rather vast scale. The Second Five Year Plan (1960–65) made an allocation of Rs. 30.5 million for Family Planning. The Third Five Year Plan (1965–70) has increased this allocation to Rs. 284.4 million. (See: *The Third Five Year Plan*, Government of Pakistan, Planning Commission, June 1965, p. 258). For details of the scheme of Family Planning for Pakistan see: *Family Planning Scheme for West Pakistan during the Third Five Year Plan Period*, 1965-1970, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare, Government of Pakistan, Rawalpindi, and *Annual Report of the Working of Pakistan's Family Planning Programme*—1965–66, Pakistan Family Planning Council, Rawalpindi.

3. Of course this does not mean that a secular state has a right to impose upon a people something which is *against* their religion and culture. That is why the Muslims in India are opposed to the Indian Government's arbitrary efforts towards thrusting this pill down their throats.

development ? And what consequences followed in the countries where it flourished ? The propriety of the Islamic injunctions can be fully appreciated only in the context of such a discussion. We shall, therefore, try to understand the nature, purpose and history of the movement and discuss the moral, social, political, economic and religious aspects of the problem. We hope that the intelligentsia of this and other Muslim countries and especially those at the helm of affairs shall give their serious thought to the facts and arguments stated in this treatise. We wish that our people may fully appreciate that the problems pertaining to the socio-cultural life of a people are, by their very nature, always very complex and multi-dimensional and any narrow or one-sided approach to them is bound to produce unhealthy effects ; it cannot be an aid to their solution. Such matters always call for thorough probe, detached study, comprehensive outlook and an openness of mind. All the relevant aspects of the problem must be explored, studied and analysed. It is also very essential that such issues should always be kept open for discussion and analysis. At no stage should final verdicts be pronounced and brute force used for their implementation. In human relations there is an essential area where individual's liberty must not be abridged or tempered with. Law and the coercive powers of the state have their part to play, but they are subject to very important limitations, if we are not going to reduce human society to the dismal world of lifeless robots. Social policies there will always be. But the principle that individual must, within a certain area, be free to act according to his

conscience is much more important than the so-called expediencies which impel governments to force a particular line down their throats. And even when certain national policies have already been adopted, this area is so delicate and so vulnerable that extreme caution must be taken and the subject should never be treated as closed.

Chapter 2

BIRTH CONTROL MOVEMENT

I

Its Objectives and Socio-Historical Perspective

BIRTH CONTROL devices are used to keep procreation in check. In olden times, the methods resorted to for this purpose were those of coitus-interruptus, abortion, infanticide, and abstinence; *i.e.* self-restraint exercised in the form of celibacy, late marriages or avoidance of conjugal relationships in married life. In modern times, however, the last two methods have yielded place to newer techniques and methods, involving the use of contraceptives etc. Sterilisation is also resorted to. Abortion too is widely practised in Europe, America,[4] Japan

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4. See: Calerone, M. S. (ed.), *Abortion in the United States*, Hoeber-Harper, New York, 1958. Also see Draper, Elizabeth, *Birth Control in the Modern World*, Penguin Books, 1965, pp. 86–98:

> "In any case the incidence of illegal abortion is without doubt almost always grossly underestimated for it can relate only to those cases appearing subsequently in hospital whether for complications or subsequent infertility. It is estimated that in the immediate post-war period in Poland illegal abortions may have amounted to 500-700,000 per annum. In Western Europe, it is estimated that in Denmark there were in 1950: 80,000 live births, 3,900 legal abortions, and 10,000 illegal abortions; in 1961 there were 72 live births per 1,000 women, 3.7 per 1,000 women had legal abortions, and 9.8 per 1,000 had illegal abortions. In Norway, where only medical grounds are permitted, the pregnancies terminated by 3,100 legal and 7,300 estimated illegal abortions in 1954 were as much as 15 per cent of the live births. In Holland, where no legal grounds exist at all though there are few prosecutions, it is thought 25 per cent of pregnancies end in abortion. In France where there have

—*Contd.*

and Russia but the main emphasis is now mostly on the use of contraceptives, oral as well as instrumental.[5] The idea is to enjoy sexual relations without involving the dangers of conception.[6] The object is to reduce births and limit the size of the family, which, in turn, is becoming more and more atomistic. The aim of the Family Planning Movement is to give wider publicity to the idea, to broadcast information about the ways and means of birth control, to induce people to resort to them and to make the contraceptives available on such a vast scale and at such low or subsidised prices that they are within the easy reach of every person.

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been persistent attempt to enforce the law, it is suggested that 50 per cent of pregnancies still end in abortion. In Japan there are more abortions than live births. In Italy there are estimated to be 800,000 abortions annually. In West Germay 25 per cent of pregnancies end in abortion though the proportion is declining with the general rise in the birth-rate which has accompanied post-war recovery. In Great Britain estimates are between 50,000 and 250,000 'illegal' abortions per year. C. B. Goodhart estimates the mortality rate in criminal abortion to be 35 to 94 per 100,000, though only about a dozen cases are identified by the Ministry of Health per year. The morbidity rate in criminal abortion is probably considerably higher, but is very difficult to estimate." Draper, Elizabeth, *Birth Control in the Modern World*, p. 92.

The position in America is that "the number of abortions (performed most frequently for unwedded girls or sinning wives) has reached at the present time the astonishing figure of between 333,000 and 1,00,000 annually". See: Sorokin, P. A., *The American Sex Resolution*, Porter Sargent Publisher, Massachusetts, 1956, p. 13.—*Editor.*

5. See: Himes, Norman E., *Medical History of Contraception*, Gamut Press, New York, 1963. Also : Lewis-Faning E., "Report of an Enquiry into Family Limitation and Its Influence on Human Fertility during the past Fifty Years". *Papers of the Royal Commission on Population*, Vol. I, H.M.S.O. 1949; and Pierce R. M., and Rowntree G., "Birth Control in Britain", *Population Studies*, Vol. XV, Nos. 1 and 2, London School of Economics, 1941.

6. Books like *Love without Fear*, suggesting the use of contraceptives, are advertisements for licentiousness and immorality, or call it irresponsible pleasure-seeking !—*Ed.*

II

The Origin and Growth of the Movement

The movement originated in Europe towards the end of the 18th century. An early impetus to the movement came from T. R. Malthus, the famous English Economist. During his time the population of England was rising at a rapid pace, a phenomenon that was produced by a host of factors including the lingering influences of the mercantilist era, the happy and contented social environment obtaining in the then English society, the demand created by wars and national rivalries which infested the century, the growth of cities, migrations etc.[7] Observing this fecundity, Malthus calculated that the habitable space on this planet was after all limited, and so were also the resources for human subsistence ; whereas the possibilities of procreation were almost unlimited. Should the breeding of human-race continue at its natural pace, he argued, it will very soon find this terrestrial globe too small for its habitation and sustenance. Production of food-stuffs will dwindle, and with an increase in population, standards of living will go down. Population rise is bound to outstrip food production and a disequilibrium is the natural result. Hence, he concluded, for the prosperity, wellbeing, and welfare of the human race it was essential that its rate of increase should keep pace with the corresponding rate of increase in the production of food-stuffs

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7. See: Hackscher, Eli F., *Mercantilism*, Allen and Unwin, London, 1935; Class, D. V., *Population Policies and Movements in Europe*, Clarendon, Oxford, 1940; Mumford, Lewis, *The Culture of Cities* and *The Condition of Man*, Martin Seeker and Warburg, London; and Arther Birnie, *An Economic History of Europe*, Methuen & Co., London, 1948.

and should never be allowed to exceed it. To achieve this he prescribed the old recipe of abstinence; *i.e.* late marriage and self-restraint in matrimonial life.[8]

Later, Francis Place of France strongly stressed the necessity of controlling the growth of population. But he didn't favour the moral means of self control, as suggested by Malthus. Instead, he proposed birth control through contraceptives.[9] These views were forcefully supported in 1833 by an American author, Dr. Charles Knowlton. His book, *The Fruits of Philosophy*, was perhaps the first work of its kind wherein the uses of contraceptives were explained from a medical view-point and their advantages stressed upon.[10]

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8. These views were expounded by Thomas Robert Malthus in his "*An Essay on the Principle of Population.*" An initial version of the essay was published anonymously in 1798, under the title "*An Essay on the Principle of Population as it Affects the Future Improvement of Society, with Remarks on the Speculations of Mr. Godwin, Mr. Condorcet, and other writers.*" A second and greatly expanded edition appeared in 1803 and a restatement in 1824. The dominant emphasis in the book is on different kinds of checks that can be applied to population and the ways and means through which public opinion can be moulded in this direction. See, Malthus, T. R., *An Essay on Population*, 2 Volumes, J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London; (Everyman's Library, Nos. 692-693). For a detailed study of the ideas of Malthus and the controversy they gave rise to see: Bonar, James, *Malthus and His Work*, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1924; Griffith, Grosvenor Talbot, *Population Problems of the Age of Malthus*, Cambridge University Press, England, 1926; Smith, Kenneth, *The Malthusian Controversy*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1951.

9. See: Place, Francis, *Illustrations and Proofs of the Principle of Population, Including an Examination of the Proposed Remedies of Mr. Malthus, and a Reply to the Objections of Mr. Godwin and others*, ed. by Norman E. Himes Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1930.

10. For a study of the history of the Birth Control Movement and its different phases see: Stopes, Marie, *Early Days of Birth Control*, (3rd edition) Putnam, London, 1923; Banks O. and J. A., *Feminism and Family Planning in Victorian England*, Liverpool University Press, Liverpool 1964; and Himes, Norman E., *Medical History of Contraception*, Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1936.

Failure of the Early Movement

In the beginning, these ideas failed to draw much attention of the Western nations. The new philosophy had few converts while a sizable number of people regarded that as unsound. Certainly, Malthus and those who thought on similar lines could very well calculate the pace at which the population jumped forward but they had no means at their disposal to find out the rate at which the economic resources expanded, or could expand. They could not possibly know as to how inexhaustible the treasures of nature were that remained untapped and hidden within the bosom of the earth and which, with the progress of human knowledge, and with the application of science and technology to the fields of production, could be harnessed and developed. In fact they could not and did not visualise the great potentialities of economic growth and development which lay in the womb of future, concealed from their naked eyes, and which came exploited in the nineteenth century. The population of Europe increased very rapidly until the last quarter of the 19th century and within a period of only seventy-five years it almost doubled. In particular England registered a spectacular expansion in its population. In 1780, she had a population of 8 million which leaped to 18.5 million in 1815 and to 45.2 million in 1911.[11] But along with it the economic resources and opportunities also increased astonishingly. GNP and per

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11. Knowles, L. C. A., *The Industrial and Commercial Revolutions in Great Britain during the Nineteenth Century*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 4th edition, 1950, pp. 26 and 178. See also Birnie, *An Economic History of Europe*, *op. cit.*, p. 265.

capita income both increased considerably.[12] Expansion of national economics was supplemented by international exploits.[13] Various European nations monopolised commerce and industry of the whole world. For their sustenance, therefore, they did not have to fall back upon merely the natural resources of their own lands. They managed to acquire from other countries food-stuffs, in exchange of their manufactured goods. Consequently, despite a huge population-explosion, they never felt this planet too small for their fast multiplying numbers, nor felt that natural resources were running short in comparison with the corresponding increase in their numbers.

Neo-Malthusianism

Towards the end of the last quarter of the 19th century a new movement known as "The Neo-Malthusian Movement" was introduced. In 1876, Mrs. Annie Besant and Charles Bradlaugh arranged the publication of Dr. Charles Knowlton's book, *The Fruits of Philosophy* in England. Government prosecuted them in a law court and the ensuing publicity attracted the attention of the general public towards this movement. Shortly afterwards an association was formed with Dr. Drysdale as President, which forthwith launched a publicity campaign in favour of birth control. Two years later, Mrs. Besant's book *Law of Population* was published which soon become

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12. See: Buchanan and Ellir, *Approaches to Economic Development*, The Twentieth Century Fund, New York, 1955, pp. 126-151; and Madison, Angus, *Economic Growth in the West*, Allen and Unwin, 1964, pp. 25-43 and 194-233.

13. See: Baran, Paul A., *The Political Economy of Growth*, Monthly Review Press, New York 1967, Chapter 5.

a best-seller—175,000 copies were sold out within a year of its publication. By 1881 this movement had made headway in Netherland, Belgium, France and Germany, and thenceforth it gradually spread to the rest of the countries of Europe and America. Associations sprang up to popularise among the people, through press and platform, the practical devices and techniques of birth control, and convince them of the convenience and alleged blessings thereof. It was, they told the people, not only genuine but also desirable from the ethical view-point; and from the economic standpoint it was presented as something not only useful but absolutely inevitable as well.

For this purpose they discovered medicines and invented appliances and devices, and left no stone unturned to bring them within the easy reach of the masses. Clinics were established to furnish expert guidance to those who stood in need of it. The new movement thus launched soon gathered momentum, and has been gaining ground ever since.[14]

III

Factors Responsible for the Progress of the Movement

It was not the economic philosophy of population

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14. For a detailed study of the movement in its later phase and its up-to-date developments see: Micklewright, F. H. A., "The Rise and Decline of English Neo Malthusianism", *Population Studies*, Vol. XV, No. 1, London, July 1961; Sanger Margret, *My Fight for Birth Control*, Faber & Faber, London, 1932; Bank, J. A., *Prosperity and Parenthood*, Liverpool University Press, Liverpool, 1953; Peel, John, *History of the Family Planning Associations*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1965; Stix, Regnie, K., and Notestein, F. W., *Controlled Fertility : An Evaluation of Clinic Service*, 1940.

control advanced by Malthus, and the Malthusians which was responsible for the success of the movement. There were other forces that really made the movement popular. More important among them were the Industrial Revolution, the Capitalist Economy, the thoroughly Materialistic Outlook on life, and the Sensate Culture of the modern West. We will now consider how these factors influenced the Western nations and led them, willy-nilly, to adopt birth control.

1. *The Industrial Revolution* : With the invention of machine and steam power, Europe entered the era of modern industrial economy. Soon there were big factories, large-scale enterprises and mass production of goods. The rural population was forced by the new situation to leave their hearth and home and move to the big cities in order to hunt for jobs in the factories. This resulted in the desertion of the rural areas and emergence and growth of thickly populated large cities where millions of people came to live, packed close together in a limited space. At first it greatly enhanced the material prosperity of Europe but shortly afterwards this lop-sided development gave rise to a host of economic problems and social complexities. Struggle for life became tougher, competition grew stronger and more bitter, social values and standards changred, craze for new patterns of living emerged, necessities of life began to multiply and prices behaved in such a way that it became impossible for a man of limited means to maintain his hitherto high position and status in society. Further, house rents began to increase exorbitantly whereas the problem of accommodation became more and

more acute. The age-old institution of family no longer remained the basic economic unit, a position it occupied when agriculture was the mainstay of the economy. The earning members of the family developed abhorrence for those who just consumed and were unable to earn anything. For fathers the rearing of their children and for husbands the supporting of their 'better-halves' become an unbearable burden. Everyone liked to spend his income on his own person, and disliked to share it with others, and wished to reduce the number of his dependants as much as possible.[15]

2. *Economic Independence of Women*: These were the circumstances that forced woman to earn her own livelihood and work side by side with the other earning members of the family. The age-long and natural division of work between the two sexes, which required man to earn and provide for his family and enable the woman to fully devote to the responsibilities of care and management of the household, was abandoned. It is an irony that while the principle of division of labour was being indiscriminately extended to different fields of life and activity, this age-old functional division was destroyed. Women had to give up their duties at home and sought employment in offices and factories. This was also in the best interests of the new capitalist class who wanted cheap labour and a large supply of workers

15. An American sociologist Paul H. Landis, summing up the whole problem, says:

"In industrial society man has become extremely sophisticated about the matter of birth, parenthood and fertility. Even sex has been divorced from fertility, in the sense that its primary function is no longer procreation, but recreation." (See: Landis, *Social Problems*, Chicago, 1959, p. 102).

to keep the wages low. Thus, burdened with the heavy responsibility of supporting themselves economically, it became increasingly difficult for them to perform in a proper manner the function of procreation and the rearing and training of children. After all how can a woman who has got to support herself economically and for that purpose has to toil throughout the day in order to contribute her share towards the family budget, be prepared to bear the burden of child-birth too. She cannot conveniently shoulder this double responsibility. During pregnancy most of the women are not able to exert themselves physically or mentally to an appreciable degree. They must, per force take leave during the later period, and then during confinement, and also for some time after that, they are naturally not able to do any work. Apart from this, a mother has to feed her child for a pretty long time and provide for her offspring all the necessary care and protection for at least three or four years. All that is not humanly possible if she has also to shoulder the additional burden of serving in some factory or office. Neither she can carry the child to her place of work nor due to her limited means, is it possible for her to engage someone to look after her children while she is away on her duty. This being the situation woman in the West was faced with a dilemma. If she performed her normal functions as desired by nature she must remain out of job for a pretty long time. In that case either she should starve or become a 'burden' on her husband, the thing she was invoked to avoid. Moreover, her employers too could hardly tolerate her repeated and regular absence for months together. As a

natural consequence to the situation in which she found herself, she felt obliged to ignore her natural urges and sap the springs of creativity she was endowed with. She spurned that very function which was the mark of her womanhood. Ultimately, the relentless pressure of economic circumstances cooled down the maternal feelings and urges and this emancipation produced a rather emaciated woman.[16]

3. *Modern Sensate Culture*: The present day cultural trends have also contributed vastly towards developing dislike towards bearing children and raising large families. The new attitudes which were developed in the last two centuries were very different from the ones which man had cherished for centuries.[17]

Materialist mentality has made man extremely selfish and greedy. Everyone now tries to accumulate more and more riches for his personal comfort and well-being. Rabid individualism has been the goddess at

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16. Pitirim A. Sorokin writes: "The increasing number of childless couples, in so far as their childlessness is voluntary, and the growing number of desertions of children by their parents are symptoms of a progressive decline of 'parental instinct' or more exactly, a parental attachment, love, and care for offspring." Sorokin, Pitirim A., *American Sex Revolution*, Porter Sargent Publisher, Massachusetts, 1956, p. 11.

17. "The decline of the contractual relationship in the family ....manifests itself in a progressive disintegration of the contractual family, as a socially sanctioned union of husband and wife, of parents and children, and of the circle of relatives. The disintegration shows itself in many forms :...The bond uniting parents and children has likewise become weaker and weaker: first because of an increasing percentage of marriages without children (in the United States 43 per cent of all married couples either are childless or have only one child); and second, because children now separate from their parents earlier than formerly....Again, the cleavage between the mores, beliefs, mentality, and social forms of conduct of parents and children has progressively widened." Sorokin, Pitirim A., *The Crisis of Our Age*, E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1951, pp. 187-88.

whose altar modern man has been worshipping. 'Everybody for himself and devil take the hindmost' has been his creed. He does not like anyone else to claim a share from his earnings, be that his father, brother, sister or even his own offspring—flesh of his flesh and bones of his bones. The rich and the wealthy have, for their self-indulgence and sensuous life, devised a variety of means and methods, and their glamorous living becomes a source of imitation even for those who belong to lower income groups. The 'Demonstration Effect' is in operation to the fullest extent. With the result that the lower and middle class people too try to 'catch-up' with the standard of living of the well-to-do. Many luxuries have artificially become such 'necessaries' of life that without them life seems almost empty and meaningless. This sort of attitude has caused the standard of living to soar so high that a man with a small income at disposal, finds it extremely difficult to provide even for his own person, not to speak of making a provision for his wife or children.[18]

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18. A French author reveals that as a result of an inquiry made in France to find out the motives behind the practice of birth control, it became evident that very few couples did so because of the fear of a large family, or for reasons of scarcity of means of livelihood. Most of the people do it for the following reasons:

> "Betterment of their financial positions and keeping up their high standard of living; checking up the sub-division of their property into smaller units and providing means for highly educating their only son so as to ensure bright future for him; safeguarding the wife's beauty and delicacy against the nuisance of pregnancies and rearing of children; keeping intact one's freedom of self-indulgence; making provision against the danger that after having children the wife should not devote herself to them spoiling thereby the husband's felicity." Paul Bureau, *Towards Moral Bankruptcy*, London, 1925, p. 64.

—Contd.

Another contributing factor towards this situation has been the changed attitude of women in our times. The so-called "emancipation" of the modern woman, her education and environment coupled with unrestricted opportunity for mixing with the other sex, have inculcated in her a completely new mental outlook which is progressively weaning her away from her natural functions. The normal household duties and the rearing of children are now looked down by her with abhorrence and disgust, She is now interested in all the activities under the sun save the responsibilities of her womanhood. She has been the victim of a vicious process of dewomanization. She considers it foolish to give up outdoor pleasures and take up the dolorous life within the house. She tries to look slim and slender, pretty and charming, youthful and sexy for attracting man towards her. She doesn't hesitate even to risk her own life by taking poisonous drugs[19] for the above purposes but is not prepared to

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Lewis Mumford says:

"In America, cities above 50,000 do not reproduce their population, and as the size of the city increases, the rate of population increase tends to decline. Part of the curb, therefore, is due to the existence of an urban standard of expenditure and an urban routine that are hostile to reproduction: crowded residential quarters in which children are unwelcome because parents cannot afford an extra room—or in which dogs are more welcome than children: cities in which a sleek ideal of comfortable gentility has replaced the desire for the joys and anxieties of parental responsibility: social groups in which a rising standard of fashionable expenditure leaves no surplus for the birth and care of children who, if they occur at all, do so in numbers insufficient to reproduce the stock. Lewis Mumford, *The Condition of Man*, Martin Seeker & Warburg, London, 1944, p. 409.

19. Some time back a warning from the Health Commissioner of New York was published in which it was revealed that women, in order to look slim and slender, had been using a drug called Dinitrophenol in large doses and due to its highly poisonous effect many had already died.

endanger her health and charm. While she can spend frivolously on dresses and cosmetics, her budget can't bear the strain of bringing up her children. It is a tragedy, grim and disquietening.

The modern sensate culture has made man extremely selfish and self-centred. People want to enjoy and indulge, but shun the responsibilities and consequences thereof that naturally follow. The inconveniences of the pregnancy and the drudgery of rearing the children seem to spoil all the pleasure and fun of life.

Many people, specially those belonging to the middle classes, have somehow or other got it into their heads that for the proper up-bringing of children and for ensuring their future prospectus, it is necessary that a family should not have more than one or two children. Their standards in this regard are so fanciful that their means of income cannot keep pace with their fantasies. It is, therefore, not possible to arrange for the education and training of their dear ones and to provide for them a good start in life. Apart from the fact that their ideals are unnecessarily too high, life too has become so dear in the modern times that educational expenses have become unbearable for a man of moderate means.

A very important factor that has imperceptibly influenced man's thinking in our times is his disbelief in God and His Providence. Atheism and agnosticism have consciously or unconsciously corroded their confidence and trust in a Being Who nourishes and sustains. Man in his ignorance and self-conceit assumes that the existing means are all that he has, and that he is the provider and nourisher of himself and his dependants.

Hence his anxiety to limit the number of his offsprings. Theophobia has thrown him in the abyss of uncertainty, anxiety and hopelessness.

IV

Where the Wrong Lies

There are some of the factors that have contributed towards paving the way for the flourishing of the birth control movement at a terrific speed and on a vast scale. If we look closely into these factors we find that the Western nations have committed the folly of rearing their socio-cultural and economic edifice on the brittle foundations of capitalism, materialism, selfishness, self-centredness and worship of the sensate. And when their efforts produced their natural consequences—the bitter fruits, they blundered once again by trying to evade them, without rethinking over the wrong that lay at the roots of their social, economic and cultural life. If they had chosen the right course, they would have searched for the basic weaknesses of their system which had made their lives unhappy and anxiety-ridden. It is then that they could have sought some way out of the impasse. You can fight a disease by eliminating its causes, not by merely dealing with the symptoms, which are only indicators of something more deep-seated. But they never tried to understand the root cause of the evil. And if at all the truth did reveal itself to them the glamorous facade of their socio-cultural set up blinded them to the necessity of bringing about any major and fundamental reform in the system or of searching for something better

and healthier. They endeavoured, on the contrary, to keep their social system intact, and tried to solve their problems and difficulties through measures that were superficial. The easiest course that presented before them was to check the further growth of their species so that they may seek their pleasure, and indulge in the luxuries and avoid the social responsibilities that follow in their wake. Now they could enjoy their earnings freely and without any fear of sharing them with anyone else. They planned to limit the size of the family and thus by nipping in the bud many a flower, live a life of ease. They simply denounced large and inter-connected families as cancerous growth and began to treat the familial responsibilities and obligations as meaningless. The result was a truncated and hand-chopped atomistic family and a disintegration of the cultural values and patterns which had held the society from time immemorial.

It points out that reducing number of children for fear of economic difficulties is a folly. Either infanticide or putting a stop to their births—both the deeds are foolish.

Chapter 3

THE TREE AND THE FRUITS

IF the tree is known by the fruits it bears, the movement for birth control should be assessed in the light of the results and consequences it has produced during the last one hundred years or so. An experiment which extends over such a long period and has had a fair trial in many countries should provide ample evidence to judge its worth. This movement has enjoyed an uninhabited opportunity to flourish in Europe and America—it has been piloted by some of the most talented minds of the age, it enlisted the support of the most powerful groups of the society, its publicity and propaganda media were overpowering, its area of influence was clearly and systematically extended to newer peoples and regions,—it almost had all that it need to prosper and fructify. It is in the fitness of things that the success or failure of the movement, its being a boon and a blessing to the mankind or being a curse and disaster to the family of men should be judged. And this we propose to do in the following pages.

There is no denying the fact that the movement succeeded in achieving its immediate objective, reduction in birth rate. But what other consequences followed and what social, moral, cultural, economic and political problems and complexities were directly or indirectly produced by it deserve to be studied patiently and profoundly. For the purpose of the present study we propose

to take United Kingdom and United States of America as our sample. We have selected these two countries for the reason that the conditions obtaining there are quite representative of the conditions prevailing in the entire Western world and also because the information available to us about these countries is greater than that about the rest.

(A)

THE PROBLEM OF SOCIAL IMBALANCE

Efforts towards birth control have produced serious distortions, imbalances and malformations in the society. The reports of the Registrar General of England, the investigations conducted by the National Birth-Rate Commission, the findings of the Royal Commission on Population, and many other studies and reports have, *inter alia*, revealed several disturbing aspects of the situation. Their findings may be summarised thus : The use of birth control devices is most popular among the upper and middle class people. Most of the persons who have been fascinated by the idea of birth control belong to the upper income groups,—highly educated businessmen, well-to-do persons of the middle class, rich gentry, commercial magnates, industrialists, teachers, thinkers, managers, planners etc. At the lower rungs of society such as the labour class, small craftsmen, artisans, agricultural workers etc., the practice of birth control is not so common. Neither their standard of living has risen very high, nor do they entertain unattainable ambitions. They hardly have the wherewithal to imitate

the pomp and show of the rich and the well-to-do. It is also significant that they are even now attached to the old customs. There are many families where the male member earns and the woman manages the household affairs and even where both have to earn their living, their family life has not totally disintegrated. They have not been robbed of their parental feeling and love. And that is why despite the limited means of income, inflationary pressure and paucity of accommodation, they do not feel like resorting to birth control on any large scale. There is no denying the fact that they too are being influenced by the general climate of opinion but there is a lag between their response and that of the upper classes. "Among couples married between 1900 and 1930 the families of manual workers were about 40 per cent larger than those of non-manual workers".[20]

An American demographer, Professor Warren S. Thompson, after an extended study of the class-structure of the population of England, America, Germany, France and Sweden, has arrived at the following conclusion :

> "If the population is divided into hand workers and white-collar workers, the former have higher fertility. If hand workers are divided into farmers and others, the farmers have the higher fertility. Within the group of non-agricultural hand workers it would appear that the less skilled and those whose work is harder and dirtier—who, in general, have the lower level of living—have larger families....when

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20. *Britain : An Official Handbook*, Central Office of Information, London, 1954, p. 8.

> amount of education is taken as criterion for classifying people, those with smaller amounts of schooling have large families than those with larger amounts."[21]

Available data suggests that the size of family has been larger amongst the farm labourers, farmers, and labourers, and small amongst professional, technical and kindred workers and managers.[22]

TABLE 3.1

Family size in respect of white population by major occupation group of husband in U.S.A.[22]

	1910		1940		1950	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Professional, technical and kindred workers ...	2.8	4.3	2.0	2.9	1.7	3.0
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm ...	3.3	4.8	2.1	3.4	1.9	2.7
Labourers, except farm and mine ...	4.8	5.5	3.2	4.4	3.1	4.4
Farmers and farm managers	4.2	5.6	2.7	4.1	3.1	3.6
Farm labourers & farmers ...	4.4	5.1	..	4.4	3.6	4.2

The above data reveals that the size of family of the

21. Thompson, Warren S., *Population Problems*, New York, 1953, pp. 194-195.

22. Patterson, William, *Population*, The Macmillan Co., New York, 1965, p. 219. Also see Gabrill, Wilson H., Kiser, Clyde V., and Whelpton, Pascel K., *The Fertility of American Women*, Wiley, New York, 1958, Table 54.

lower classes, despite all the efforts of the birth control movement spread over significant period, remains larger than that of the upper and middle classes. Similarly size of the family is smaller amongst the more educated people and larger amongst the less educated ones.[23] Despite a gradual communication of the practice of family limitation to the lower stratas of society, the difference remain significant.

All these facts clearly show that in a society given to birth control the manual and working classes multiply faster while those gifted with superior mental and intellectual capacities and those possessing attributes of leadership are steadily falling. And this is sure indicator of the decay and downfall of a people since it results in the dearth of able and competent persons and decline in creativity. A nation that suffers from this lop-sidedness cannot long hold its position and status.

Dearth of competent elements in the society, decline of general mental and intellectual levels, extreme shortage of those endowed with qualities of sound leadership, are dangers that haunt the Western society today—a natural consequence of the practice of birth control on a large scale. Some of their best brains have realized the situation and they are issuing warnings about this situation.

Aldous Huxley in his *Brave New World Revisited* warns that the additions to population "shall be of biologically poorer quality".[24]

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23. See Patterson, *op. cit.*, pp. 220-221.

24. Huxley, Aldous, *Brave New World Revisited*, Chetts and Windus, London, 1959, p. 27.

He observes that :

> "In spite of new wonder drugs and better treatment (indeed, in a certain sense, precisely because of these things), the physical health of the general population will show no improvement and may even deteriorate. And along with a decline of average healthiness there may well go a decline in average intelligence."[25]

Huxley has quoted Dr. W. H. Sheldon, a biologist, in support of his argument :

> "Under conditions that are both soft and unregulated our best stock tends to be outbred by stock that is inferior to it in every respect....It is a fashion in some academic circles to assure students that the alarm over differential birth-rates is unfounded ; that these problems are merely economic, or merely educational, or merely religious, or merely cultural or some thing of the sort. This is Pollyanna optimism. Reproductive delinquency is biological and basic."[26]

Sheldon has also this potent remark to make that "nobody knows just how far the average IQ in this country (the U.S.A.) has declined since 1916, when Terman attempted to standardize the meaning of IQ 100."[26]

Bertrand Russell, the well-known British Philosopher, has also expressed his deep sense of anxiety over this aspect of the problem.[27]

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25. Huxley, Aldous, *Brave New World Revisited*, Chetts and Windus, London, 1959, p. 28.

26. *Ibid.*

27. It would be of some interest to recall that Aldous Huxley and Bertrand Russell both are staunch supporters of the birth-control movement and have recently, been selling the idea particularly to the Eastern countries.

He writes :

> "In France the population is practically stationary, and in England it is rapidly becoming so ; this means that some sections are dwindling while others are increasing. Unless some change occurs, the sections that are dwindling will practically become extinct, and the population will be almost wholly replenished from the sections that are now increasing. The sections that are dwindling include the whole Middle Class and the skilled artisans. The sections that are increasing are the very poor, the shiftless and drunken, the feeble-minded—feeble-minded women, especially, are apt to be very prolific. Within the classes that are dwindling, it is the best elements that are dwindling most rapidly. The result is that in each generation the best elements are extracted from the working classes and artificially sterilized at least in comparison with those who are left."[28]

Explaining the dangerous consequences thereof, Russell goes on to say that :

> "For these reasons, if an average sample of children were taken out of the population of England, and their parents were examined, it would be found that prudence, energy, intellect, and enlightenment were less common among the parents than in the population in general ; while shiftlessness, feeble-mindedness, stupidity and superstition were more common than in the population in general. It would be found that those who are prudent of energetic or intelligent or enlightened actually fail to reproduce their own numbers ; that is to say, they do not on the average have as many as two children each who survive infancy. On the other

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28. Russell, Bertrand, *Principles of Social Reconstruction*, Allen & Unwin, London, 1954, p. 124.

> hand, those who have the opposite qualities have, on the average, more than two children each, and more than reproduce their own numbers.[29]

Surveying the after effects of this change, Russell sums up the consequences of this extraordinary dwindling of the finer elements of population as under :

> "There is reason, however, to fear in the future three bad results : First, an absolute decline in the numbers of English, French and Germans ; secondly, as a consequence of this decline, their subjugation by less civilized races and the extinction of their tradition ; thirdly, a revival of their numbers on a much lower plane of civilization, after generations of selection of those who have neither intelligence nor foresight."[30]

Bertrand Russell, in this connection, also cites the case of the Roman Civilisation. A situation similar to the one at present obtaining in the Western countries prevailed at the time of its decline and factors very akin to those underlying the present situation ultimately led to its final extinction. He says :

> "Perhaps, if the facts could be ascertained, it would be found that something of the same kind occurred in the Roman Empire. The decay of energy and intelligence during the second, third, and fourth centuries of our era has always remained more or less mysterious.

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29. Russell, Bertrand, *Principles of Social Reconstruction*, Allen & Unwin, London, 1954, pp. 124–125.

30. *Ibid.*, p. 126. This situation cannot be explained away by suggesting that this is a result of some "unfortunate selectiveness" in birth rate. This is a natural and unavoidable result of the introduction of the artificial methods of birth control.

> But there is reason to think that then, as now, the best elements of the population in each generation failed to reproduce themselves, and that the least vigorous were, as a rule those to whom the continuance of the race was due.[31]

Concluding his discussion on the point under discussion, even so staunch a supporter of birth control as Mr. Bertrand Russell, remarks that :

> "The present state of the law, of public opinion, and of our economic system is tending to degrade the quality of the race, by making the worst half of the population the parents of more than half of the next generation. At the same time, women's claim to liberty is making the old form of marriage a hinderance to the development of both men and women. A new system is required, if European nations are not to degenerate, and if the relations of men and women are to have the strong happiness and organic seriousness which belonged to the best marriages in the past. The new system must be based upon the fact that to produce children is a service to the community, and ought not to expose parents to heavy pecuniary penalties. It will have to recognize that neither the law nor public opinion should concern itself with the private relations of men and women, except where children are concerned. It ought to remove the inducements to make relations clandestine and childless....Here, as elsewhere liberty is the basis of political wisdom. And when liberty has been won, what remains to be desired must be left to the conscience and religion of individual men and women."[32]

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31. Russell, Bertrand, *Principles of Social Reconstruction*, Allen & Unwin, London, 1954, p. 126.

32. *Ibid.*, pp. 135-36.

In the light of what we have discussed above, we would suggest that widespread resort to birth control, in the first instance, shatters the delicate balance of population within a society, besides causing a gradual elimination of its most active and its finest elements. And, in the second place, it upsets the proper proportion between the old and the young of a society. The consequences of the later on the economic and cultural life of a community are very far-reaching and disastrous in the long run. When the number of children reduces with the resultant distortion of the composition of population in a country, the number of the aged rises, naturally increasing their proportion in a society. The result is that new blood ceases or slows down to flow in the veins of a nation. With fewer and fewer children not only the demand for the consumer goods is reduced, which contributes towards economic stagnation, the effects on the attitudes of a community and on the life-pattern in general are quite disturbing. Slowly and gradually inertia and lethargy set in and vigour and dynamism decline and dwindle. Greater part of the nation just vegetates, while youthful zeal and courage to take risks and plunge headlong into new ventures evaporate. The nation loses initiative and stamina and by and large it is left behind in almost all fields of human endeavour : science and learning, intellectual growth and acquisition of knowledge, and healthy economic, social and political activity. In sharp contrast to this sorry spectacle is the society which lets the processes of procreation and rearing of newer generations proceed as nature desires. This society ever remains imbued with vigour and vitality

and youthfulness. The exuberance and dynamism of the youth radiates through the fabric of the entire nation and the society as a whole feels surcharged with higher ideals and purposes.

The steady decline in the proportion of children and of the young, while rise in the number of the aged and the old, due to the practice of birth control in the Western society, has produced disturbing forces that are now too clearly visible. The trend that have come to light during the last seventy years is evident from the following data :

TABLE 3.2

Age composition in Selected Countries[33]
(percentage of population in lower and upper age brackets)

Name of the country	Year	Children of ages less than 10 years	Young men from 10 to 19 years of age	Old men of 50-64 years of age	Old men above 64 years
England and Wales	1881	25.7	20.6	9.8	4.6
	1949	15.5	12.4	16.8	10.9
Germany	1880	25.1	19.7	8.0	7.9
	1950[34]	14.5	16.3[35]	16.4	9.3
France	1881	18.3	17.1	14.5	8.1
	1946	14.1	15.7	16.4	11.0
America	1880	26.7	21.4	8.4	3.4
	1950	19.5	14.4	14.3	8.1

33. Source: Thompson, *Population Problem*, p. 95.

34. These figures pertain to West Germany only and do not include East Germany.

35. That the proportion is not so low in Germany, is probably due to the fact that the present generation was brought up under Hitler, who was dead against birth control.

In all these countries population has been undergoing the same subtle process of change. The United Nations has, after thorough investigations and research, published a report on this aging trend of the population noting that men and women of 65 years of age or above have registered an extraordinary increase in their population during the years 1900-1950. If 1900 is taken as the base, the index in 1950 for different countries was as under :

New Zealand	.. 236
Great Britain	.. 231
Austria	.. 212
America	.. 200
Germany	.. 190
Belgium	.. 173
France	.. 144

It has also been pointed out in the report that this change seems to be mainly due to a corresponding variation in birth rate. Change in the death rate, in this respect, has not figured so prominently as has been the change in the birth rate.[36]

Prof. Thompson expressed his deep concern on this disturbance of a natural and harmonious proportion between the young and the old people in the West. He says :

> "This fact (*i.e., the increase of old age people*) in itself is significant because old people add to the

36. *Aging of Population and its Economic & Social Implications*, (U. N. Department of Economic Affairs, New York, 1956), p. 22.

> crude death rate, subtract from the crude birth rate, and are less productive economically than younger people."[37]

For the economic development of a country on healthy and sure footing it is but incumbent that a proper proportion is maintained between the numbers of the young and the old, so that the strong, vigorous and youthful hands are never lacking for the realization of their ideals. Nature has been generous enough in making ample provision for this sort of arrangement but man himself is responsible for disturbing this balance by resorting to birth control. With the result that because of man's own undoing the number of the old persons constantly shows an upward trend and that of the children and adolescents does not register a corresponding rise : thus adversely affecting the equilibrium. This would ultimately result in the dearth of man-power, the deterioration in strength and waning of economic power. And quite naturally when as a consequence of fewer youngmen in a nation, the really capable and competent element is not available, the nation loses its station and status in the comity of nations and then gradually submits and prostrates before other peoples and nations. Nature seldom pardons its rebels ; it has its own ways to avenge. In fact, such departure from the path of nature contains in its bosom the seeds of destruction. The punishment is invariably awarded and made a warning unto others.[38]

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37. Thompson, Warren, *Population Problem*, p. 95.
38. Writes the historian and sociologist Pitirim A. Sorokin :

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(B)

Sexual Vices, Crimes and Diseases

The practice of birth control on a vast scale has provided a great impetus to illicit relations and consequently has led to an increase in venereal diseases. Age-long checks in this regard are fast going to dust. Besides fear of God and the sense of accountability on the Day of Judgement two other factors have helped mankind particularly the womenfolk, in maintaining a high standard of sex morality : first, their innate modesty ;[39]

"One of the aftermaths of low birth rate and low death rate is a disproportionate increase of the old age groups and decrease of the young age groups. Whatever may be the virtues of age, they cannot compensate for the vitality, vigour, courage, daring, elasticity, and creativity of the young. A nation largely composed of middle-aged or elderly people enfeebles itself physically, mentally, and socially, and moves towards the end of its creative missions and leadership.

"The population of our country has notably 'aged' during this century. The percentage of people fifty years of age and over is already significantly high. From this stand-point, we are a much more 'aged' nation than almost all Asiatic countries, Russia, and many others. With a further increase of the old-age groups in our population, dangerous symptoms are bound to appear.

"The many-times cycle of succession, of aged nations being replaced by younger societies, in creative leadership of human history, should serve as a warning to us. The stern process of social selection demotes the senile societies from the position of leadership in the great historical drama and relegates them either to insignificant roles or to the museums of fossils. Their starring roles usually pass on to younger, more creative societies, whose strong and vigorous hands take from them the torch of leadership. Hegel's motto, *Die Weltges-chichte ist das Weltgericht*, seems to be correct." See: Sorokin, *The American Sex Revolution*, Porter Sargent Publisher, Boston, 1956, p. 82.

39. "There is a tendency to dismiss shame as an undesirable

—*Contd,*

and secondly, the fear that an illegitimate child will bring them disgrace in society. But the Modern Civilization has struck a blow to both. The new outlook generated by this civilization has deprived a large number of women of their sense of modesty and moral uprightness. The social climate in which she breathes is permeated with illicit sex. Night clubs, hotels, theatres, cinema houses, dance and music halls are the 'cathedrals' of this culture. Wine and wanton sex have robbed woman, the once incarnation of modesty, of many finer shades of her personality.[40] And to top it all, the fear of illegitimate children has also been reduced to insignificance. In the first instance the stigma is no longer so affronting, it is now supposed to be something casual; the disapproval is regarded as a remnant of a dead past. Widespread practice of the birth control has facilitated 'love without fear' and 'sex without guilt'. Sex crimes and venereal diseases are nothing but the wages of licentious and lascivious living.

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by-product of civilization or even as the result of an out-dated moralism. In fact, psychological analysis as well as ethnology proves that the sense of shame is one of the archpossessions of mankind." Oswald Schwarz, *The Psychology of Sex*, Pelican, 1951, p. 57.

40. "The claim to progressiveness and modernism is often no more than a cloak for incentiveness to essential values, and shame is one of the first victims of this moral aberration. The nudist movement, for instance, is, or should be, a deterrent example...Shame needs protection in order to protect." Schwarz *Ibid.*, p. 58.

A woman writer Gael Greeve who interviewed college girls to find out their sex life is startled at the frankness with which they talked—an extent of frankness bordering on vulgarity that even she had never expected. See: Greeve, Gael, *Sex and the College Girl*, Dell Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1964, pp. 14-15.

England alone produces more than eighty thousand illegitimate children every year. According to the report of Diocesan Conference, one out of every eight children born in 1946 was illegitimate, and about one hundred thousand women annually conceived outside the wedlock. Dr. Oswald Schwarz comments on the situation thus:

> "In 1938-43 the average number of women who bore extra-maritally conceived children was for each year almost exactly 80,000 (1 in 3 of all first maternities). It may be safely estimated that 1 in 10 of all women have sex relationships outside marriage. In 1938 40 *per cent of all girls* marrying under the age of 20 were already pregnant; 30 per cent of those aged 20, and 20 per cent of those aged 21. These figures, impressive as they are,—and it may be noted that they include two pre-war years—represent only those affairs in which something has gone wrong, that is to say, only a small fraction of those which actually have existed."[41]

According to Schwarz one out of every ten women is living in sin and the number of illegitimate children, despite all birth control facilities, stood at 480,000 only in England in 1947.[42] The latest figures, however, present an all the more disturbing picture of the contemporary situation. The Chesser Report, prepared on the basis of information supplied by six thousand women, and published in 1956, claims that one out of every three women has already lost her chastity before getting married.[43]

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41. Oswald, Schwarz, *The Psychology of Sex*, Pelican Book, 1951, p. 81.

42. *Ibid.*

43. See: Chesser, Dr. Eustace, *The Sexual, Marital and Family Relationship of the English Women*, 1956.

Dr. Chesser has reiterated this position in his recent book *Is Chastity Out-moded?*[44] Elizabeth Draper, acknowledging the fact that "new sexual trends towards greater liberty and experimentation have taken a hold on society reports" that, "despite an estimated two hundred to eight hundred abortions a day, an alarming crop of illegitimate and socially deprived children, and disillusioned and unhappy young people" stare us in the face. "In 1963, 6.6 per cent of live births were illegitimate—over 5 per cent to girls under 16, another 13 per cent being the product of pre-marital intercourse, including two out of every three babies born to girls under 20."[45]

As for America; the Kinsey Report has outspokenly declared that illicit sexual relations are so rampant that they have rocked the very foundations of American social order. The Report estimates that 47 per cent of men and 50 per cent of women in America are involved in illicit sexual relationship.[46]

The well known sociologist and historian Dr. Pitirim A. Sorokin laments over this situation and presents the following data[47] to reveal the real perspective:

Sexual Relationship	Women :	7 to 50 per cent
before marriage :	Men :	27 to 87 per cent

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44. Chesser, *Is Chastity Outmoded?* London, 1960, p. 82.

45. Draper, Elizabeth, *Birth Control in the Modern World*, Pelican, 1965, p. 128.

46. Kinsey, Alfred C., and others, *Sexual Behaviour in Human Male*, W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1953, p. 552.

47. Sorokin, Pitirim A., *The American Sex Revolution*, Boston, 1956, p. 13.

Illicit Sexual Relations after marriage :	Women :	5 to 26 per cent
	Men :	10 to 45 per cent
Abortion :	From 33,300 up to 1,000,000 cases annually	

After giving this data Sorokin makes the succinct observation that :

> "If the present rate of decline of premarital virginity continues, this virtue is likely to become within a few generations a myth of the past. And the present increase of extramarital relations threatens to replace the monogamic marriage itself by some sort of polygamous or polyandrous, or anarchic, or "communal" pseudo-marriage . . . .
>
> "There is no need to point out the momentous consequences of this increasing promiscuity for the individuals, for social group, and for the nation. Call it "sexual freedom" or "sex anarchy", its consequences are likely to be more far-reaching than those of almost all other revolutions, *except perhaps the total revolutions such as the Russian Revolution*."[48]

According to Kinsey's estimates, one out of every five children born in America is illegitimate ; and four per cent of the children are given birth by the virgin mothers. Besides, some reliable statistics about abortion reveal that one out of every four pregnancies is made to abort. And, as reported in *Time* Magazine, there were 16,400 births as against 18,000 abortions in San Francisco during 1945.[49] As an indicator of the new trends one may note what Gael Greeve has to say about co-eds in the university. Accord-

48. Sorokin, Pitirim A., *The American Sex Revolution*, Boston, 1956, p. 14.

49. Landis, *Social Problem*, pp. 418-19.

ing to her several Michigan co-eds put the figure of girls who would be sexually inexperienced at graduation "at only 15 per cent, 20 and the most conservative at 30."[50] Dr. Graham B. Blaine, Jr., psychiatrist to the Harvard and Radcliffe Health Services, estimates that within the past fifteen years the number of college boys who had intercourse before graduation rose from 50 per cent to 60 per cent, the number of college girls from 25 per cent to 40 per cent."[51] This author further reports: "In spite of all this (*i.e.* the pills and other contraceptives), the number of illegitimate children born to teenage mothers rose from 8.4 per thousand in 1940 to 16 in 1961, in the twenty-to-twenty-five age group from 11.2 per thousand to 41.2."[52]

Another expression of this situation is that crimes, specially sexual crimes, are increasing at an alarming pace. In England, the cases of cognizable offences that came to the notice of the Police were found to have been multiplying at the following rate :

In 1938 :	2,83,000
In 1955 :	4,38,000

During the same period the proportion of sexual crimes in the overall crime structure has leaped up from 1.7 per cent to 6.3 per cent.[53] The figures collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that in America cases of illicit sexual relationships recorded a rise of sixty per

50. Greeve, Gael, *Sex and the College Girl*, p. 13.

51. Grunwald, Henry A. (ed.), *Sex in America*. A Corgi Book, 1965, pp. 8-9.

52. *Ibid.*, p. 10.

53. *A Survey of Social Conditions in England & Wales*, Oxford, 1958, pp. 266-70.

cent in 1955 as compared to the year 1937-39. Other crimes have also increased from five per cent to eighty per cent.[54] Taking into account all the important and major crimes we find that in 1958 more than two million and three hundred thousand cases came into the notice of the Police, whereas in 1940 their total number did not exceed one and a half million cases.[55] Delinquency and moral perversion of the youth too is increasing at a rapid rate. Of the two million and ninety-eight thousand persons arrested in 1957 for various offences from 1473 cities of the United States of America two hundred and fifty-three thousand were found to be under eighteen years of age.[56]

This sexual license has resulted in diseases that are fast corroding the health of the nation in spite of the best possible medical facilities available. If, for instance, we just look at the havoc played by syphilis alone, the remarks of Mr. Thomas Paran, Surgeon-General of Public Health Service of America, should serve as an eye-opener when he says that this dreaded disease has proved a hundred times more dangerous for national health than the poliomyelitis is, and that it is as devastating as cancer, tuberculosis and pneumonia are. One out of every four deaths that take place in America, is, according to him, directly or indirectly the result of syphilis.[57] Professor Paul Landis, after quoting the above observations, adds :

"From 1947 onward, there was a consistent decline

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54. Landis, *Social Problems*, p. 386.

55. Blaich and Baumgartner, *The Challenge of Democracy*, New York, 4th Ed., p. 510.

56. *Ibid.*, p. 511.

57. Landis, Paul H., *Social Problems*, p. 313.

in venereal disease, as a consequence of this effective cure and preventive. By 1955, however, there was a sharp upturn in several major cities and in several states in both syphilis and gonorrhoea. The great increase was among teen-agers. In fact, half the venereal diseases today is among the teen-age group."[58]

He also observes that "no amount of inspection can hinder the spread of venereal disease where prostitution is practised."[59]

In an article by George Kent and Wilfred Greatorex published in the *Readers Digest*,[60] the authors stated that venereal diseases are once again increasing with terrific rapidity throughout the big cities of U.K., such as London, Birmingham, Liverpool etc. The newly discovered medicines that had for some time in the past exercised an effective check on the venereal diseases, now appear to have lost all their efficacy. Various venereal diseases have increased by twenty per cent during the four years from 1956 to 1959. The number of those suffering from gonorrhoea alone in 1959 was thirty-one thousand, a 70 per cent increase over the figure for 1955. While going through those figures it must, however, be borne in mind that these include only those patients who called at the special clinics for venereal diseases. Those who consulted private medical practitioners or some private consultants, or those who never cared for any treatment at all, are not included in these figures. The authors of this article have also stated that incidence of venereal diseases is spreading

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58. Landis, Paul H., *Social Problems*, p. 313.
59. *Ibid.*, p. 314.
60. *The Readers Digest*, August, 1961.

fast throughout the whole nation, its most unfortunate aspect being its epidemic spread among the boys and girls of ages under twenty years. Recently a few doctors, comparing the data about 1948-60, reported that the number of youngmen and women of 18 to 19 years of age suffering from gonorrhoea, has, in one year alone, registered an increase of 36 per cent for boys and 28 per cent for girls. A. J. Dalzell Ward, the Director of the Central Council for Health Education in England, remarks that never before in the history of nation such an increase in venereal diseases in men and women of under twenty years of age was observed. In one hospital of London alone and at the moment of one inspection only, there were 490 patients suffering from these diseases and all were under twenty. In Liverpool fifty per cent of the patients suffering from those cursed diseases belonged to the age group of 14 to 21 years only.[61]

A similar situation now obtains in various other countries also. At a recent conference of the World Health Organisation, a group comprising of the representatives of sixteen countries reported that syphilis and gonorrhoea had broken out amongst their people as a dreadful pestilence. During the years 1958 and 1959, those suffering from syphilis multiplied three times in Italy, whereas in Denmark the number just doubled.

The world situation as surveyed above is a clear pointer to the fact that the spread of birth control is res-

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61. Draper reports that "in the last six years in the 15 to 24 age-group, cases of gonorrhoea among youths increased by 60 per cent and among girls by nearly 80 per cent." *Birth Control in the Modern World, op. cit.*, p. 129.

ponsible for loosening the moral standards of the people and for increasing licentiousness in the society, producing a crop of sin and vice and crime and disease which inflict the Western society today. It has opened the doors for many an ills such as illicit sexual relationships resulting in complete sexual anarchy and crimes, and the abominal venereal diseases, that have engulfed almost the entire society.

(C)

Childless Marriages and Increase in Divorce

Birth control too is one of those factors that are responsible for weakening the bonds of matrimonial relationship in the Western society. Obviously children are a very effective source for strengthening the ties between husband and wife. For a married couple that has no children it is far more easy to leave each other and live apart than it would have been in case they had children. And *inter alia* this is an important reason for the wide prevalence of divorce in Western society. Most often it is the childless marriage that ends in separation. Sometimes back a Law Court in London set apart a hundred and fifteen married couples in less than one and a half minute's time. All of them without exception had no issue at all. The fact is that childlessness,[62] a product of birth control, is a social

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62. The papers of the Royal Commission on Population show that the percentage of childless couples has increased from 8.3 per cent in 1870-9 to 14.8 per cent in 1920-4. In the Indianapolis study of 1942, 16.3 per cent were found to be childless, of whom 6.5 per cent were voluntary. According to Freedman, Whelpton,

—*Contd.*

disease and paves the way for divorce and the disintegration of the family. Dr. Bernard A. Bauer, a celebrated Viennese gynaecologist, may also be quoted with profit about the disease of childlessness. The author says :

> "......every mother is rather inclined to consider the birth of the child as a great achievement, as if she alone was capable of such a miracle. Women should realise that it is their duty to be mothers. Nature has decreed it. Only by motherhood can they fulfil their destiny. The highest emancipation of women has for its motto not 'Freedom from Men' ! or 'Freedom from children' ! but rather 'Everything for the child'."

He goes on to say :

> "It is an incontestable fact that a childless marriage is really only half marriage. The feeling of oneness between man and wife, the feeling of living for and with one another, are perfected only by the child. Only maternity can bring the mental life of a woman to full flower. However fine a woman she was before, she was emotionally somewhat unstable, but through motherhood her character is stabilised and ennobled. Maternal love, unlike the love based on sex, is entirely disinterested. The woman suddenly displays a capacity for self-renunciation and self-forgetfulness hitherto absent even in her relations with her husband. It is as though her whole character was completely transformed.....She becomes almost superhuman when the welfare, happiness, or life of her child are at stake. No matter how clinging and dependent she may have been previously, she now becomes firm and

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and Campbell out of every 1,000 infertile marriages, 530 are voluntary. The wish to remain childless is one of the results of birth control. See : Draper, Elizabeth, *Birth Control in the Modern World*, *op. cit.*, pp. 43-45.

resolute when the child's interests are involved."[63]

The Sociologists generally are of the view, that childlessness is one of the main factors responsible for a rapid increase in divorce rates. Talcott Parsons, on the basis of irrefutable facts and figures, asserts that :

> "As the figures show by and large divorces are, and continue to be, concentrated in the early periods of marriage and in childless couples. Even though married before and divorced, once people settle down to having children, there is a relatively high probability that they will stay together."[64]

Similarly Barnes and Ruedi have stated their findings in the field as under :

> "Two-thirds of those couples obtaining divorce are childless ; one-fifth have only one child. In fact, there seems to be a definite relationship between childless marriage and divorce."[65]

The researches of Dr. Freedman and his companions also point in the same direction. Summing up their findings Dr. Freedman observes that : "marriages with few or no children have a higher divorce rate than others."[66] Dr. Eustace Chesser observes : "Birth control did not make marriage redundant although it changed its raditional character by limiting the size of the family.

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63. Bauer, Dr. Bernard A., *Woman and Love*, New York, 1949, Vol. II, pp. 124-5.

64. Parsons, Talcott, *The Stability of the American Family System*, Bell & Vogel (Ed.), *A Modern Introduction to the Family*, London, 1961, p. 94.

65. Barnes, H. F. and Ruedi, O. M., *The American Way of Life*, Prentice-Hall Inc., New York, 1951, p. 652.

66. Freedman, Whelpton and Campbell, *Family Planning Sterility and Population Growth*, New York, 1959, p. 43.

This in turn undoubtedly tended to loosen domestic ties. Childless couples are more likely to drift apart."[67]

Let us sum up this part of our discussion—about childlessness produced by birth control, its unnaturalness, close relation with divorce and other disintegrating influences on the institution of family by once again referring to the thoughtful observations of Professor Sorokin. "As a natural fulfilment of a happy marriage," says the leading sociologist, "husband and wife want to have children. Childless marriages and families are truncated, semi-fulfilled unions. They not only fail in the duty of maintaining the human race, perpetuating the parental families, and transmitting the cultural heritage from generation; but they also do not give the plenitude of the happy married life, especially when the couples become old. The elderly childless couple often find themselves lonely and unfulfilled, in a sort of a psycho-social vacuum devoid of the heartfelt warmth of loved and loving offspring. Children also help immensely in strengthening the unifying bonds of the married, in invigorating their vitality and good cheer, and in keeping them away from various mischiefs. Statistics clearly show that marriages with children yield much lower rate of divorce, suicide, and certain form of morbidity than the childless marriages, and especially than single or divorced persons.'[68] The extraordinary pace at which the divorces are taking place in the nations practising birth control is quite startling. About England, in this connection, Dr. Oswald Schwarz writes :

"During the last half-century the trend towards

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67. Chesser, Dr. Eustace, *Is Chastity Outmoded? op. cit.*, p. 70.
68. Sorokin, *The American Sex Revolution, op. cit.*, pp. 174-5.

> divorce has in increasing degree shown the virulence of an epidemic. In 1914 there were 856 divorces in this country; in 1921 there were 3,522; in 1928 there were 4,000. In 1946 the figure rose to 35,874. Is this an alarming symptom that our civilization has already passed the culmination of moral development?[69]

The figures obtained from the British Courts for Family Disputes, show that the pace of divorces has been as under:[70]

In 1936 :	4,057
In 1939 :	7,955
In 1947 :	60,754

In the following years the number fell a little and this continued uptil 1951, but in 1952 again the divorce rate rose high and since then it is oscillating upwards.

The conditions prevalent in America can be well appreciated by the fact that in 1890 the end of matrimonial relationship was effected in the ratio of 1 : 10 in respect of divorce and the death of one of the spouses. But, in 1949, this proportion dwindled to 1 : 1.58 as against that of 1 : 10 in the year 1890. The proportion between marriage and divorce also seems to have been chronically disturbed by this increase in divorce, with the result that there was one divorce in 1870 for every 33.7 marriages, in 1915 for every 10.12 marriages, in 1940 for every 6 marriages and in 1958 for every 3.7 marriages.

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69. Schwarz, Oswald, *The Psychology of Sex, op. cit.*, p. 243.
70. *A Survey of Social Conditions in England & Wales*, pp. 7-8.

Thus, while in 1870 one out of 34 marriages ended in divorce, now one out of every four marriages ends in separation. In 1890, only 3 out of one thousand married women got separated but in 1946 their number had risen to 17.8. A six-fold increase is indicated by these figures in the number of divorced women.

Fulton J. Sheen observes that "when the divorce rate in 30 major cities of one country is one divorce for every two marriages, when a nation has over 600,000 divorces compared with 2,285,500 marriages in one year, these are unmistakable signs that America is rotting from within."[71] Similar laments are being voiced by the thinking elements of the society. Sorokin has righty said that "the candle of the American marriage and family is being burned at both ends,——both as a union of husband and wife, and as a union of parents and children. And with their disintegration, marriage and the family progressively fail in the performance of the tasks of maintaining the well-being of the individual and ensuring the survival of the nation itself."[72] This is the tragedy of the modern civilization and in the making of it birth control has played an important part.

Besides divorce desertion is an ever growing menace of American society, and in popular American usage such a desertion is called as "the poorman's divorce'. Over a million American families are at present living in just such a plight. "The census lists among married

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71. Data from Sheen, Fulton J., *Communism and the Conscience of the West*. The Bobbes Merrill Co., Indianapolis, New York, Chapter VII.

72. Sorokin, *The American Sex Revolution*, p. 9.

families 1,096,000 with "wife absent" and 1,526,000 with "husband absent".[73] According to Professor Sorokin's estimate, of the total number of married women, nearly four per cent are living a deserted life, and an amount of nearly two hundred and fifty million dollars is annually spent from the public exchequer on these broken families.[74] As a consequence of these divorces, desertions and disloyalty in married life, out of a total number of four hundred and five million children a hundred and two million (i.e. more than 25 per cent) children are living a life devoid of paternal care and love. And these are the children who have created the serious problems of juvenile delinquency and revolt of the youth —probelms that plague the Modern Civilization.

(D)

Decline in Birth Rate

One of the most alarming consequences of birth control is that the birth rate of almost all those countries which adopted it has tended to fall dreadfully low. As mentioned earlier, the movement gained momentum near about 1876. Table 3.3[75] shows how the birth rate per thousand within different countries has steadily been dwindling from 1876 onwards.

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73. Bergel, Egon Ernest, *Urban Sociology*, New York, 1955, p. 298.

74. These figures are for the year 1953. See : Sorokin, *The American Sex Revolution*, p. 8.

75. Data for the years 1926 and after is derived from the *U. N. Demographic* Yearbook ; for the year 1959 and for the years before that, from *Encyclopaedia Britannica.*

TABLE 3.3

Showing birth rate in different countries of Western Europe

Country	1876	1901	1913	1926	1930-34	1935-39	1949-44	1953	1954	1955	1957	1958
England & Wales	36.3	28.5	23.1	17.8	15.8	15.3	16.0	15.9	15.6	15.5	16.5	16.8
France	26.2	22.0	19.0	18.8	17.3	15.1	16.3	18.9	18.9	18.6	18.6	18.2
Germany	40.9	35.7	27.5	20.7	16.6	19.9	—	15.8	16.1	16.0	17.0	17.0
Italy	39.2	32.6	31.7	27.8	24.5	23.2	20.8	17.7	18.2	18.1	18.1	17.9
Belgium	33.2	29.4	22.6	18.9	17.6	15.5	13.8	16.6	16.8	16.8	17.0	17.1
Denmark	32.6	29.7	25.6	21.0	17.9	17.9	20.3	17.9	17.3	17.3	16.8	16.6
Holland	37.1	32.3	28.3	23.8	21.7	20.3	21.8	21.8	21.6	21.4	21.2	21.1
Sweden	30.8	27.0	23.1	16.9	14.4	14.5	17.7	15.4	14.6	14.8	14.5	14.2
Switzerland	33.0	29.0	23.1	18.2	16.7	15.4	17.9	17.0	17.0	17.1	17.7	17.6

This table unmistakably points out the inevitable consequence following birth control. The fact that ever since its inception the birth rate has steadily been declining in almost all the countries bear testimony to the inference that birth control movement is to a very large extent, if not solely, responsible for this phenomenon. The Registrar General of England admitted that at least 70% of the fall in birth rate has been due to the practice of birth control. *Encyclopaedia Britannica* also lends support to the view that the birth control movement with all its artificial modes of checking procreation, constitutes the most important factor affecting a fall in birth rate of the Western nations.

The report of the Royal Commission of Population (1949) shows that only 16 per cent of those married before the year 1910 practised birth control, but after the years 1940-42 the number of such persons leaped up to seventy-four per cent). In this connection the Royal Commission explicitly states :

> "There is thus an overwhelming volume of evidence in this and other countries that the rates of childbearing are at present greatly restricted by the practice of birth control and other methods of deliberate family limitation below the level at what they would be and if no such methods were practised....of this fall (*i.e.* in birth rate), the spread of deliberate family limitation has certainly been the main cause, and very probably the only cause."[76]

The Indianapolis investigations, carried out by Whelpton and Kiser, have shown that among the

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76. United Kingdom, Royal Commission on Population, *Report*, H. M. S. O. London, 1949, p. 34.

couples studied intensively 9.1 per cent practise birth control in one form or the other.[77] Freedman and his colleagues have also held their researches that on the whole more than seventy per cent of married couples actively resort to birth control practices. Surveying the situation in America and England Dr. Freedman and his colleagues conclude that:

> "There is little doubt that the main factor accounting for these declines in family size is the voluntary use of method to regulate conception."[78]

Another way to study the consequences of birth control is to compare and co-relate the data about the rate of marriages and of births among these nations. In England, for instance, during the years 1876 to 1901, rate of marriages decreased by 3.6 per cent whereas the birth rate decreased to 21.5 per cent. From 1901 to 1913, the rate of marriages remained constant but the birth rate decreased to 16.5 per cent. The proportion between the rate of marriages and that of births among various nations during the years 1912 and 1926, is shown in the table on next page :[79]

America is also treading the same path. Towards the close of the 19th century the birth rate in America was forty per thousand, which by the year 1935 was

77. Whelpton, P. K. and Kiser, Clyde V., "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility : VI. The Planning of Fertility", *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, 1947, Vol. 25, No. 1, pp. 66-67.

78. Freedman, Ronald, Whelpton, Pascel K., and Campbell, Arthur A., *Family Planning, Sterility and Population Growth*, McGraw Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, 1959, p. 6. See also : Thompson, *Population Problems*, 4th edition, pp. 197-204.

79. Data from *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

TABLE 3.4

	Marriage Rate		Birth Rate	
France	7.6%	(Increase)	28.2%	(Decrease)
Germany	9.4%	(Decrease)	49.4%	,,
Italy	9.8%	,,	29.1%	,,
Holland	10.2%	,,	35.0%	,,
Sweden	11.3%	,,	45.1%	,,
Denmark	12.3%	,,	35.6%	,,
Switzerland	12.9%	,,	44.8%	,,
England & Wales	13.3%	,,	51.0	,,
Norway	26.0%	,,	38.0%	,,

reduced to 18.7 per thousand and in 1960 it was 23.6 per thousand.[80] In comparison to this the marriage rate in 1901 was 9.3 per thousand ; in 1935 the marriage rate became 10.4 per thousand, but by 1956 it had fallen to 9.4 per thousand. This shows how among the people practising birth control the matrimonial relations amongst men and women are fast losing their significance. The birth-rate seems to have been decreasing at a relatively faster pace than a corresponding fall in marriages. A curious phenomenon to note in this respect, however, is that under certain circumstances while an upward trend is traced in marriage rate, the birth rate is still found going down as before. The British Government in an official handbook very recently had admitted that :

> "The fall in births during the twentieth century has taken place in spite of an increase in the marriage rate and a drop in the usual age of marriage for women."[81]

80. *Population and Vital Statistics*, U. N. O., April, 1961.
81. *Britain, An Official Handbook*, 1954, p. 8.

The fall in birth rate has resulted in the decrease of the average number of the members of a family. In the Western countries the size of family is continuously shrinking and now most of the families either have no children or at the most one or two. There is a striking difference at all between the figures of an average family group in the West before and the adoption of the birth control practices.

From the standpoint of number of children born, the contrast between marriages celebrated in England in 1860 and those of 1925 is noteworthy, as is indicated by the table given below:"[82]

TABLE 3.5

Number of children	Marriage Rate	
	1860	1925
No child	9%	17%
One or two children	11%	50%
3 or 4 children	17%	22%
From 5 to 9 children	47%	11%
10 or more than 10 children	16%	—

It is very clear that the average family is shrinking. During the years 1870-79, average number of births among married women was 5.8 children ; in 1925 this average fell down to only 2.2 ;[83] and the latest average figure for it is now just a little higher than 2.2.[84]

In America, the average number of children was 4.7 children in 1910 ; in 1955 the average came down

82. Royal Commission on Population, *Report*, p. 26.

83. *A Survey of Social Conditions in England and Wales*, *op. cit.*, p. 23.

84. *Britain : An Official Handbook*, *op. cit.*, p. 12

to 2.4 children.[85] The number of women, childless or with one or two children, in 1910 formed respectively 10 and 22 per cent of the total married women, but, in 1955 the proportion was noted to be 16 to 47 per cent respectively. As opposed to this, 29 per cent of the total married women in 1910, had seven or more children ; by 1955 their number shrank to six per cent only.[86]

If, however, despite this constantly dwindling birth-rate in the Western countries, somewhat swelling up of their numbers is noticed, it is due primarily to the advances made in the medical science, and the general health measures adopted by the Western nations that have very much reduced the death-rate. But as the facts speak for themselves, very little margin of difference is now left between death and birth rate and it is generally feared that the birth-rate may still register a decline and go below the death-rate. This, in other words means that populations will decline. France, Belgium, and Austria can be cited as instance of the countries whose populations, instead of rising began to show positive decrease at short intervals. These countries have failed to keep up even their past standard. The population of England too is more or less stationary. Prior to World War II America was also faced with the same predicament. In Austria during the years 1935-38, the death rate was higher than the birth-rate. Similarly, in France, more people died than were born during 1935-39.

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85. Freedman, Whelpton and Campbell, *Family Planning, Sterility and Population Growth, op. cit.*, p. 5.

86. *Ibid.*, p. 5. Figures for the year 1910 are from the Sixteenth Census of the U. S. 1940 and for 1955 from Scripps Foundation data.

Had a large number of foreigners not migrated to France during this period, its population would have sharply dwindled. In fact during the years 1934-36 and 1938-39, its population did become very low and touched the danger point.[87]

The statistics available for the urban population of America show that uptil 1950 it was not reproducing itself. Till then the birth rate was so appallingly low that it was apprehended that if an appreciable rise did not occur, the American population would, after a generation or two, be reduced by at least twenty-five per cent.

According to the report of the Royal Commission on Population in England (1949) the conditions obtaining towards the end of 1945 had reached alarming proportions in that among the non-manual workers of higher stratas of society, who had been married for the last 16 to 20 years, the average proportion of children per family was 1.68 only. This state of affairs clearly pointed towards a gradual but inevitable extinction of these classes. And this is what the experts have to say in this respect :

> "A population in which the two-child system prevails and in which consequently there are but two children surviving on the average of each marriage is condemned to extinction. Such a population will rapidly decline from generation to generation, that is over successive period of thirty years...1000 people among whom the two-child system rules will shrink in the first thirty years to 621. In 60 years, there will be but 386 ;

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87. Vide : *Demographic Yearbook of the U. N.* 1948, U. N.O., edition, 1949.

in 150 years there will be 92 people out of the original number 1000."[88]

In order to judge the trends of population growth, demographers and economists do not look merely into the birth rate data ; they also try to take into view all relevant factors that cause an increase or decrease in this respect and calculate the "net reproduction rate". Supposing that the net reproduction rate is one, it implies that the population is stationary. If it exceeds one, signifies an increase in the population. And likewise, if it is below one, the population is declining. We are giving below the Net Reproduction Rate of some of the Western countries, which would clearly show their true position :[89]

England	1933	0.747
	1937	0.785
	1940	0.772
	1949	0.909
Belgium	1939	0.859
	1947	1.002
France	1930	0.930
	1935	0.870
	1940	0.820
	1954	0.940
Norway	1935	0.746
	1940	0.858
	1945	1.078

This state of affairs is agitating many a thinking men and women. As they look upon the dreadful con-

88. Dr. Frederic Burghoerier, quoted by Jacques Lecharque, *Marriage and Family*, New York, 1949, p. 239.

89. Vide : *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1955, Vol. 18, p. 234

sequences they are perturbed and disturbed, even those who support the birth control movement. When they see the bitter fruits of the trees they themselves had planted, they are at their wits' end. Now voices are being heard demanding some change of policy, at least in their own countries. For instance, a sociologist realising the gravity of the situation remarks :

> "If Malthus were living today, he probably would recognize that Western man has at times exercised too much foresight in restricting births and is really short-sighted with regard to the destiny of his civilization.
>
> "France and Belgium have actually experienced population decline periodically because deaths have exceeded births, but all other nations in the sphere of Western-urban-industrial civilization have feared decline. Population authorities in the United States concluded, as they studied the trends of birth and death rates during the depression decade of the 1930's, that decline was imminent a generation hence."[90]

A well-known Economist has put forth his view-point on this problem in the following words :

> "The declining population with which we are threatened will not tend to cure our unemployment problem, we are foolish enough to allow such a problem to exist : nor will it make for an improved standard of living for those who remain. Its economic effects will be definitely adverse ; for it will mean an ageing population, including a higher proportion of elderly, retired persons for the producers to maintain and, among the producers, a higher proportion in the older age-groups, and therefore less adaptability to the demands of changing techniques

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90. Landis, Paul H., *Social Problems*, pp. 596-97.

and changing events. We ought accordingly to do all we can to arrest the decline."[91]

A group of historians is raising similar warnings :

"Another way in which the life-span of a profligate group may be shortened is that of a low birth rate. As a rule, communities preoccupied by the hunt for promiscuous sex pleasure care little, if at all, about having children, for they are obstacles to the full enjoyment of libertinism. This viewpoint prompts sex devotees to resort to contraceptives, abortions, other means for preventing childbirth. As a consequence, the population of the community first becomes stationary, and then decreases to the point where the group is incapable of satisfying its vital needs, maintaining its individuality and defending itself against its natural and human enemies.

"This voluntary suicide reinforced by the involuntary sterility which may be the consequence of debauchery.

"The combined effects of both voluntary and involuntary sterility, therefore, shorten the historical life-span of such a community. This suicide has played an important role in the social or biological extinction of many royal, aristocratic, wealthy, and other groups, as well as in the decay of several nations."[92]

Emphasising the politico-cultural aspects of the problem, Professor Colin Clark, Director, Institute of Research in Agriculture-Economics, University of Oxford, observes that :

"The future historian, looking down the perspective of centuries, may reckon among the most

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91. Cole, G. D. H., *The Intelligent Man's Guide to the Post War World*, London, 1948, pp. 445-46.

92. Sorokin, *The American Sexual Revolution*, pp. 78-79.

> important events of our era the decision of the people of France in the early 19th century, of the people of Britain in the late 19th century, to limit their rates of population growth our consequent decline in influence as World Powers."[93]

This is but a brief survey of the consequences that appeared in various countries, which adopted birth control as a national policy and launched it as a social movement. All this is now like an open book which any intelligent man can read. The nations we have discussed seem to have passed the springtide of their glory. After reaching the zenith of political power they are now on the road to decline, as the laws of history and nature also reveal. The emerging countries of the East should not blindly walk in the footsteps of the European countries. They are on the threshold of a great future. It would be hardly advisable for them to pursue such restrictive policies as had contributed towards the decline of the West. Moreover, these countries have recently emerged from political servitude of West and are just starting their new career. If the West resorted to birth control, it was at a moment when it had already build up a great civilization and as such could afford this movement for some time. But what about the nascent states of the East ? Can they afford to fritter away their limited energy on this 'exacting mistress' ? For them it is time to think and reflect. They should forge their own strategy for tomorrow and should not be misled by the flood of propaganda that has been unleashed over them. The fruits borne by the movement for birth control hardly justify its claim for a new career in the East.

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93. Clark, Colin. Too Small Families. *The Daily Times*, London, 15th March.

Chapter 4

REACTION AND REMEDY

THE conditions surveyed in Chapter 3 disturbed many thinking elements of the Western society. Their social philosophers became anxious and uneasy. They felt dissatisfied with the prevalent situation. Their statesmen and political thinkers began to think of bringing about a change in the trend. In every country the problem is being re-examined and newer ideas are being thrown. New movements to remedy the ills are springing up and fresh and vigorous efforts are in the offing. And the symptoms of a gradual change of outlook is discernible. We shall make a rapid survey of the reaction which has emerged in various countries.

(*a*) England

During the World War II, a National Birth Rate Commission was appointed in 1916, comprising of twenty-three experts belonging to various fields such as medicine, economics, sciences, statistics, education, and religion. The Government was represented on the Commission by the Chief Statistician Dr. Stevenson, and the Principal Medical Officer Arther Newsholme. The Commission published its various reports. It observed in one of them that Britain must take very serious stock of the persistent and increasing decline in her birth-rate and should adopt all possible measures to

remedy the situation and step up the birth-rate. The then Chief Medical Officer of the British Health Ministry, Sir George Newmen expressed the view that if this decline is not checked forthwith Britain would be reduced to a fourth-rate power.[94]

Sir William Beveridge, the then Director of the London School of Economics, in a broadcast speech opined that if the proportion of births and deaths continued to be unbalanced as at the present rate, then within the next ten years the population of England will begin to decline, and within thirty years it will be reduced by two million people. Professor Carr-Saunders of Liverpool University also expressed similar opinion. In view of this new realisation an anti-birth control movement was launched to fight the disturbing trends. A society by the name of "League of National Life" was set up and notable men and women joined it.

During the World War II the British thinkers and statesmen further realised the serious consequences of shortage in population. The British Home Secretary Herbert Morrison, categorically asserted that if Britain was to maintain its present standard and pave the way for future progress every British home must have a 25 per cent increase in its population. At that time the thoughtful elements of the nation shared the general feeling that if England was to survive as a world power she stood in urgent need of the adoption of a new and more effective policy with respect to its population and will have to stop forthwith the downward trend of her

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94. This and earlier statement have been taken from the reports published in the Indian press in those days.

birth rate. For this purpose a Royal Commission was constituted in 1944 for the specific task of studying all the relevant aspects of the problem, and to recommend steps that ought to be taken to arrest the decline in birth-rate and bring population in line with national aspirations and interests. This Commission submitted its report in March, 1949, wherein it explicitly declared that :

> "Of this fall, the spread of deliberate family limitation has certainly been the main cause, and very probably the only cause."[95]

The Commission has in its report discussed at great length the economic, social and cultural conditions prevalent in the 19th and 20th century which made a large family economically burdensome. Factory Act and educational regulations very much limited or rather ruled out any possibility of employing child labour. A few other factors too coupled with the ones mentioned above, contributed in rendering a large number of children in a family a mere economic liability. Hence, there emerged a general trend amongst people to limit their families by resorting to birth control. The Commission after making the above analysis, has presented detailed recommendations to prevent the children from becoming financial liabilities for their parents.

The Recommendations presented by the Commission in this connection are these :

(1) Every family should be given an allowance according to the number of children it has.

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95. Royal Commission on Population, *Report, op. cit.*, p. 34.

(2) The income-tax laws should be changed: those with children should be given tax relief, while a relatively heavy burden should fall upon the unmarried.

(3) House construction programme should be taken up on a large scale, each house having more than three bed rooms.

(4) Health and social welfare should be introduced so as to encourage larger families.

(5) Permanent provision should be made for research on the problems of population and education.

The Commission, in this connection, went so far as even to recommend the introduction of artificial insemination to increase the population, of course, a process too loathsome and heinous, from the human viewpoint.

In the light of these recommendations important changes in the laws of England and her social policies were brought about. Now there are many incentives to birth, such as allowance for children, leave of absence for the confinement period and a special allowance for it. In addition to this various measures are being taken to provide opportunities and facilities for education, health and housing so that the people might not be deterred from procreation due to financial costs of bringing more children in the world.[96]

This new policy has proved to be very effective and its impact is very much visible. The latest figures

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96. See: Hagenbuch, Walter, *Social Economics*, Cambridge, 1958, Chapters VII, IX and X.

indicate a general increase in population and birth-rate : in between the years 1931 and 1941 average birth-rate was 14.8 per thousend which became 17.4 per thousand, the years 1941-51. Similarly the average annual increase in the population during the years 1931-41 was 1,07,000 which leaped up to 2,50,000 between the years 1951-60. While announcing the results of the latest census, it has been declared with fervour that the rate of rise of the British population during the past ten years is fastest in the preceding half century.[97] If 1913 is taken as the base year (100) index in 1924 was 105.2, in 1930 : 107.3, in 1938 : 111.2, in 1950 : 117.8, and in 1960 : 123.0.[98]

(*b*) **France**

The French Government fully realized between the Great Wars that a fall in birth-rate means fall of the French nation. The thinking elements in France have been alarmed over the downward trend of the French population and they have suggested that if it is not swiftly and effectively checked, the day may not be far off when France would be effaced from the political map of the world as a power to be reckoned with. The census reports of France present the grim picture : in 1921 the population fell by 2,001,000 as compared to the figures of 1911. There was a rise of one and a half million in 1926, but that was mainly due to immigration of foreigners in France. Foreigners were settling in France in such large numbers that 7.2 per cent of French

97. *British Bulletin*, July 29, 1961, p. 4.

98. Maddison, Angus, *Economic Growth in the West*, Allen & Unwin, London, 1964, Appendix B, pp. 205-6.

population consisted of the non-French. This in itself posed a potent danger for the French nation. In this age of territorial nationalism, the rise of foreign elements and the decrease of indigenous population may bring about disastrous consequences. Consequently measures were taken to check such tendencies. A powerful movement called "National Alliance for the Increase of Population" is actively engaged in meeting this danger. The Government has declared as unlawful all publicity, education and instruction in devices of birth control. Dissemination of knowledge in favour of birth control, written or verbal, overt, or covert and even by way of private advice, in the individual capacity or publicly, is forbidden throughout France. Even the medical practitioners cannot act or behave, openly or secretly, in any activity that may smack of birth control. About a dozen laws have been promulgated to encourage increase in population. Under these laws the child-producing families get financial assistance from the State, alongwith tax concessions. Better scale of salaries, more remuneration to workers and generous pensions are granted to persons having larger families. For them railway fares are reduced and they are even honoured with medals and social honours. And, on the other hand, a sur-tax is charged from those who do not marry or remain childless. The French are now, by and large pro-natalist and are trying to undo the wrong they had done in earlier decades. They rebelled against the laws of nature but had to garner bitter fruits. Now they seem to be retracing their steps.

This new policy in France has begun to produce

results and its effect on the birth-rate is quite marked, as shown below :

Year	*Birth Rate (per thousand)*
1936-40	14.5
1941-45	15.1
1946	20.6
1947	21.0
1958	18.2

It is due to this new policy that the French population has registered a 26 per cent increase in the years 1938-54. If 1913 is taken as base year (100) index of population in 1920 was 93.5, in 1930 : 99.7, in 1950 : 100 and in 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960 : 103.7, 104.6, 105.7, 106.9,108.1 and 109.2 respectively.[99]

(c) Germany

The Nazis after coming into power in Germany regarded the continuous fall in the population as the greatest danger to the German people and they endeavoured to avert it at the earliest. A Nazi paper commented upon the situation as follows :

> "If our birth-rate continued falling at the present rate then it is feared that a point will soon be reached when we shall find our nation completely sterilized ; no more generations will then spring up to shoulder the responsibilities shifted on to them by the living generation."

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99. Maddison, *Economic Growth in the West, op. cit.*, pp. 205-6.

As a first step towards change in policy the Government prohibited all education, propaganda and practice of birth control and made it strictly unlawful. Women were taken off the rolls in offices and factories; young men were provided marriage-inducement through grant of marriage loans; taxes were imposed on married and childless couples; relief tax was given to persons with larger families. In the year 1934, ten million pounds sterling were disbursed as marriage loans to 600,000 men and women. According to the new law promulgated in 1935, a concession of 15% was to be given in income-tax for producing one child, 35% for 2 children, 55% for three children, 75% for 4 children, 95% for 5 children. No income-tax at all was charged if one had six children. This provided an immediate impetus to population growth, and birth-rate began to rise in pre-Second War Germany. In 1931-35 the birth-rate was 16.6 per thousand, it rose to 19.6 per thousand in 1936-40.

(*d*) Italy

Italian Government under Mussolini paid special attention towards increasing the Italian population. Birth control and all forms of its propagation were declared unlawful. In order to induce the Italians to marry and procreate nearly all those means were adopted which have been described above in the case of Germany and France. The Italian law is very explicit in denouncing all such acts, speeches, or propaganda that favour birth control; all such offences are made cognizable, and those who break the law may be sentenced for one year and fine or both. In normal circumstances this law

is effective for medical practitioners also.

(*e*) Sweden

Some time back a former Swede Minister, Mr. Trygger in a speech in Ricksdag (Swede Parliament) had remarked that if the Swedish people did not intend to commit suicide they will have to take immediate steps to check their fast decreasing birth-rate, for, ever since 1921, the birth-rate has been falling dreadfully, and the replenishment of population had stopped. This warning produced the desired effect : the Swedish Parliament appointed a special commission in May, 1935. In its voluminous reports, the Commission recommended for a reorientation of the population policy. It suggested an increase in the size of families, and proposed that every family should consist of at least three or four children. The following important measures have already been adopted in the light of the recommendations made by the task :

(*i*) The National Health Board was entrusted with the task of supervising the sale of contraceptives.

(*ii*) Special remission in tax was given to the parents of children of less than 18 years age.

(*iii*) House-building programme to provide accommodation on cheap rates.

(*iv*) Gradual annual rebate to those with three or more children.

(*v*) Health programme—free supply of medicines, specially for the preservation of the health of children.

The birth-rate in Sweden shows a marked impact of the new policy, as is revealed from the following statistics :

Year	*Birth Rate (per thousand)*
1931-35	14.1
1936-40	18.7
1941-44	19.7

In the post-war period the birth-rate of Sweden has again gone down.[100]

To recapitulate : We have so far studied the significance of the birth control movement, its genesis, history, the factors that made it popular, the consequences it brought to the countries where it was practised and lastly, how some of those went through the experiment now look at it. In the light of the above discussion it would be easier for us to appreciate the viewpoint of Islam about the problem.

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100. Discussion in this part has been kept brief and sketchy. Authentication and annotation has also been kept very limited. Data can be checked and the study further pursued by resort to U.N. publications on Europe and other studies of the socio-economic policies of these countries. See : U. N. Population Division, *The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends*, New York, 1953, (ST/SOA/Ser. A. 17, Sale No : 1953, XIII, 3). National Bureau of Economic Research, *Demographic and Economic Change in Developed Countries*, Princeton University Press, Princeton N. J., 1960 ; Watson, Cicely, "Population Policy in France ; Family Allowances and Other Benefits," *Population Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 3, March 1954.

Chapter 5

ISLAM AND BIRTH CONTROL

The analysis we have done in the preceding chapters of the factors that contributed towards the popularisation of birth control and the grave consequences that have followed therefrom bring home the following two points :

First : the urge for birth control in the western peoples and its popularity among them on such a wide scale, was not a national demand and there was nothing inherently wrong with them : nor was there any innate abhorrence towards procreation. In fact the causes of their present attitudes must be searched in the socio-economic and cultural pattern of their life, as it developed during the last two hundred years. Their mode of thinking, their values, their outlook have all been so moulded that they willy-nilly adopt the course of escape from the responsibilities of parenthood and the inconveniences involved in procreation and the up-bringing of children. Had they not been driven from the circumstances and conditions of life peculiar to the culture they find themselves in they too would have remained as indifferent and unresponsive to birth control as they actually were in the first half of the 19th century. This we say for the simple reason that human nature has not undergone any transformation now, and parents' urge to procreate and bestow love and care over their offspring is just the same to-day as it was before the advent of the movement.

Second : Another important fact that comes to light is that the disturbing results that were produced by resort to the practice of birth control has demonstrated in unmistakable terms that rebellion against the laws of nature is bound to be detrimental to man and society. Indeed the laws of life are so complex that any tampering with them only to suit whims and caprices cannot but wrought havoc. The ways of nature cannot be frustrated by such fiddlings with the socio-cultural phenomenon. It is against the very nature of man to interfere with the processes of procreation. What needs to be changed is not the natural mode of behaviour, but man's whims and complexes which induce him to resort to easy courses and a life of pleasure without responsibility. This is a sure road to destruction.

I

Islamic Viewpoint : The Fundamental Principle

These above stated two lessons drawn from the western experience enable us to better appreciate the fundamental principle of Islam. Islam is the natural way of life : it is a natural religion for man. All the rules laid down by it, individual as well as collective, are based upon a fundamental principle : that man should behave and act in consonance with natural laws that he finds working in this universe ; and that he should refrain from a course of life that might force him to deviate from the purposes for which nature is operating. The Holy Qur'an informs us that God Almighty

has not only created everything that we find in the universe but has also endowed it with an instinctive knowledge of the ways by which it can most suitably perform the tasks assigned to it in the general scheme of things:

> "Our Lord is He Who gave every thing its peculiar form and nature, then guided it aright (*i.e.* showed it the way following which it can fulfil the purpose for which its creation was due)."[101]

Everything that is there in universe is engaged in the performance of its duty in complete submission to the will of God. That is how they must behave. No one has the power or capacity to go against the prescribed course. Only man is an exception in this regard. He has the freedom to choose a course different from the one set forth by nature. He can refute to submit and obey and conform. With the help of his intellect and the faculty of reason he can carve out new ways and forms of behaviour and may tread them to his discretion. The freedom is there, but a misuse of this freedom is bound to produce bad results, in the same way as we are free to violate the rules of traffic, but the consequent accidents and collisions and the penalty of law we shall have to bear. If man chooses to violate the laws of nature and the Guidance God has given for individual and social life this is bound to lead him astray from

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101. *Al-Qur'an*, 20 : 50. In references to the Qur'an first number is that of the Surah (Chapter) and the last one of the verse.

the right course and produce disturbing consequences here and hereafter.[102]

> "And who is more erring than he who follows his desires (and caprices) without any guidance from Allah."[103]

This deviation from the right course may on the face of it seem quite attractive and fascinating and advantageous. But the fact is that straying away from the path laid down by the Creator and violating the limits set by Him, is bound to be harmful to man. By adopting such a course he would be unjust to himself. The reason is not far to seek. Every transgression of the limits laid by the Lord and every act of irresponsible behaviour must eventually be to the detriment of man and greater the violation greater the penalty. Wages of sin is destruction.

> "And whoever transgress the limits of Allah he indeed does injustice to his own self."[104]

This, according to the Qur'an, is so because to try to distort and disturb the scheme of things God has ordained and to violate the natural laws which govern and sustain the universe and all that it contains is bound to unleash forces of destruction—this is a fiendish act and not the one that behoves man. These violations are at the promptings of Satan who wants to deprive man of what God has bestowed upon him.

> "And the Satan said : I will enjoin the sons of Adam and they shall change Allah's (scheme

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102. For a detailed exposition of this point see : Maududi, *Towards Understanding Islam*, ed. by Khurshid Ahmad, Islamic Publications Ltd., Lahore, 1963. Chapter I.

103. *Al-Qur'an*, 28 : 50.

104. *Ibid.*, 65 : 1.

of) creation."[105]

And Satan is man's enemy ever since the beginning of man's career in this universe.

> "And you should not follow the footstep of Satan ; surely he is your enemy manifest ; he only enjoins you (to pursue) evil and acts of indecency."[106]

Thus, the basic principle on which Islam rests the foundations of its social and economic order, and from which emanates its culture and civilization, is that man should fulfil all the demands and urges of his nature in to the laws of nature,—and make the fullest use of all his powers and capabilities in a manner desired by the Supreme Being. He should neither keep any of his faculties dormant and unexplored nor use them in an irresponsible manner unmindful of the Divine Guidance, nor he should allow himself to be misled by the suggestions and promptings of the forces of evil in persuading him to seek for methods that are far removed from the straight path shown by nature. The well-being of man lies, not in deviating from nature, but in pursuing its course in the light of Divine Guidance.

II

Is Birth Control Compatible with Islam ?

If we view the problem in the light of the above discussed fundamental principle of Islam it becomes abundantly clear that the pattern of life that Islam

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105. *Al-Qur'an*, 4 : 119.
106. *Ibid.*, 2 : 109.

builds can have no place for birth control as a national social policy. The Islamic culture strikes at the roots of the materialistic and sensate view of life and eliminates the motivating forces that make man abstain from fulfilling one of the most fundamental urges of human nature, that is, of procreation. As already seen, birth control is not an unavoidable demand of human nature. He does not need it for the fulfilment of his personality. Instead it is a product of certain cultural forces, of a peculiar social circumstance, of a value-pattern that make man obsessed with his personal comforts and pleasures, to the neglect of the needs of the society and the race. It is then that procreation is discounted and artificial curtailment of the family gets premium. From this it can be legitimately inferred that if a people have a different socio-cultural set up, and if the forces and conditions that led to the social movement of birth control in the western society do not obtain amongst them, the occasion for such a movement will not arise. When the motives and the causes are not there, the situation would be different. When the tree is not there, how could the fruits be ? Naturally in such a social organisation all inducements to attempt to alter God's scheme, to transgress the limits prescribed by Him, and to violate the course of nature He has laid will cease to operate. This movement can have no place in such a society.[107]

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107. That is why throughout Muslim history the movement of birth control never raised its head. And if it has appeared

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Let us look a little more deeply in the social system of Islam to see how it precludes the possibility of the emergence of tendencies that may give rise to a situation favourable to the movement of birth control or to any other unnatural tendency.

Islam's economic system has struck at the very roots of capitalism and the spirit of acquisitiveness. It forbids usury and interest, disallows monopoly, forbids speculation and gambling, discourages hoarding, and introduces such institutions and policies (Zakat,[108] an equitable law of succession and inheritance, fair wage, guarantee of basic necessities of life to all people etc.) as lead to diffusion of wealth and wellbeing. Islam takes these and many other effective measures to remedy the ills that have been responsible for economic dislocation and disparity in the Western society and for raising a system of economic exploitation of the many at the hands of the few.[109]

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certain Muslim countries the reason is not that it is an outgrowth of their own historical conditions, but has been imported from outside under the influence of the West. The Muslim society has not opened its hearts for it; it is being imposed upon them through the use of naked force and the more adroit methods of propaganda, persuasion and deceit. And also because the overall cultural influences of the West are also making inroads in our society and disturbing our social set up. The culture which Islam envisages is simply incompatible with such a social movement.

108. State acquisition of a part of the wealth above a certain limit in cash or kind at a fixed percentage per annum; and its distribution in the society for social welfare and public good. For a detailed discussion see Maududi: *Khutabat* (Urdu), Islamic Publications Ltd., Lahore.

109. See Maududi: *Economic Problem of Man and Its Islamic Solution*; *Maashiat-e-Islam* and *Sood*, Islamic Publications Ltd., Lahore. Last two books are available in Urdu only.

The social system of Islam has given legal, economic social and judicial rights to woman. She has a share, by her own right, in the earnings of man, over and above the right to own and inherit property and invest capital in business and industry under her own name. Islam, however, clearly states that men and women have their own spheres of activities—a scheme of functional division in accord with their respective natural dispositions and inherent physical and physiological qualities and characteristics. Free mixing of the sexes is prohibited through *hijab*[101]. That is how the doors of a number of social and economic ills have been closed, and the errands that might lead men and women away from the function that nature has assigned them have been blocked. The preservation and propagation of life is not left to chance arrangements, instead the entire scheme of social life is so arranged that on the one hand the demands of human nature may be fulfilled and on the other the task of procreation and rearing of new generations be accomplished in the best possible way.[111]

The ethical teachings of Islam require man to lead a simple and morally chaste and unblemished life. Islam declares unlawful all forms of social misbehaviour

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110. *i e.* A set of rules and regulations about attitudes, dress, manners and modes of conduct and behaviour of the sexes including rules for properly covering bodies of women when they go out.

111. See Maududi, A. A., *Purdah*, and the *Status of Women in Islam*, Islamic Publications Ltd., Lahore, and, *Haqooq az-Zaujain*, Islamic Publications Ltd., Lahore.

including drinking, fornication, adultery and other sexual vices. It discourages idleness and waste of time in useless pursuits and places. Effective checks on irresponsibility, extravagance and indulgences in those recreations and enjoyments that result in a care-free life and frittering of wealth on trifles. Islam wants man to live a balanced life—balance between work and rest, effort and enjoyment, material and moral, individual and social aspects of life. "Eat and drink but be not prodigal, Lo ! Allah loveth not those who exceed the limits," is the Qur'anic injunction.[112] Islam's approach to spending is that wealth is a trust and should be spent only where necessary and up to an extent that is desirable. In the matter of dress, housing and procuring comforts of life, one should exercise restraint and spend within reasonable limits. That is how not only through moral training and spiritual education but also through a set of social, moral, and economic regulations and directive principles Islam strikes at the roots of immorality, extravagance and insatiable hunger for luxury and lust—the hall-marks of a society that takes to birth control, as was done in the West.

Islam also inculcates the spirit of mutual love and affection, fellow-feeling and sympathy. It stresses the right of the blood-relations and enjoins a policy of cooperation and help. It insists on compassion for neighbours and ordains *Infaq fi sabil Allah*, spending in the way of Allah for the promotion of good and virtue in its widest sense. Islam develops a system of social

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112. *Al-Qur'an*, 7 : 31.

responsibility and national solidarity and provides for the help of the poor and needy irrespective of their faith, colour, race, creed, religion or country, and protects them from the selfishness, greed and exploitation by the vested interests.

These, in brief, are some of the ways and means that inculcate in each man a sense of responsible individualism as well as develops a healthy and integrated society. It is a moral society for a moral man. Such a morally sublime atmosphere cannot breed any social tendency towards birth control.

Alongwith these social attitudes and a *modus operandi*, for their operation and flowering, Islam brings about a change in the heart of man—the seat of his personality. It assures that man is not alone in the universe. There is a God, the Creator, the Sustainer, the Lord. To Him it turns his face and thus brings him in line with the way all creation—and creatures—behave. Strive man must, but it should be done with faith and hope. Islam asks man to rely on his Creator and makes him realize that He alone is the Nourisher and the Provider of him as He is of all other organic beings in the universe. This realisation saves man from many a moments of false despondency or arrogance. He relies on himself and his resources ; but he relies more on the Lord of the universe.

Summing up we find that the nature of Islamic faith, its spiritual and moral attitudes, its social laws and regulations, its code of ethical behaviour, and its overall ideals and mission in life—all have contributed towards mitigating those forces that give rise to the

movement of birth control and its adoption as a social policy. Islamic and the Western civilizations, from this viewpont, are poles apart. A really Islamic society can have no place for birth control as a national policy. If a person is a true Muslim in thought and deed he, in the ordinary course of circumstances can neither feel any urge towards birth control nor would he be thrown in an amoral situation where violation of nature is forced upon him. He enjoys life by living with restraint. And that is the course most suited to human genius.

III

Does Islam Forbid Birth Control ?

So far we studied the problem in more general terms. We shall now look at the issue more directly and try to find out whether Islam forbids birth control or not.

The Holy Qur'an lays down a fundamental principle that effecting change in the scheme of God (*khalq-Allah*) is a fiendish act.[113] Changing God's scheme and creation signifies misuse of a thing, its utilisation for a purpose other than the one for which it was intended, or to use it in a manner that its real purpose is defeated. In the light of this fundamental principle let us see as to what is "God's scheme" in the marital relationship of man and woman, *i.e.* what is the real natural purpose of this relationship and whether birth control changes it in the

113. *Al-Qur'an*, 4 : 119.

other direction. The Qur'an is not silent on this point. It has, on the one hand, forbidden sexual relations outside marriage,[114] and on the other, laid bare the objective which matrimonial relations between men and women are to serve. These objectives are (*a*) procreation and (*b*) fostering of love and affection and promoting culture and civilization. The Qur'an says :

> "Your wives are a tilth for you, so go into your tilth as you like and do good before hand for yourselves.[115]

This verse expounds the first objective of marriage. The other one is referred to in the following verse :

> "And one of His signs is that he created mates for you from yourselves that you may find consolation in them and He ordained between you love and compassion.[116]

In the first verse by describing women as a tilth an important biological fact has been pointed out. Biologically man is a tiller and woman a tilth and the foremost purpose of the inter-relationship between the two is the procreation of human race. This is an objective which is common to all—human beings, animals, and the world of vegetation. The tiller of the soil cultivates the land not in vain, but for the produce. Take away this purpose, and the entire pursuit becomes meaningless. Through the parable of the tilth this important fact has been stressed by the Qur'an.

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114. *Al-Qur'an*, 17 : 32 ; 23 : 6 ; 24 : 2-3 ; 40 : 30. For Maududi's views on the problem see *Purdah*, *op. cit.*, pp. 148-219 and 254-260 ; and *Tafheem al-Qur'an*, Vol. III, pp. 305-342.

115. *Ibid.*, 2 : 223.

116. *Ibid.*, 30 : 21.

The second verse refers to another purpose of this relationship, *viz.* the establishment of an organised social life. When husband and wife take up to live together as a family they in fact lay the foundation of culture and civilization. Herein lies the unique function which man is to perform in God's creation and work towards the flowering of all that has been laid in man. This urge is latent in man's nature and seeks its fulfilment through promptings from within and without.

"God's Creation" : What does it Mean ?

God Almighty has made many an arrangement to enable the universe to operate on an even keel. Among those arrangements, two deserve our special notice. They are : (1) Nourishment of all organic beings, and (2) procreation of the species. Nourishment is required to enable the living organisms to carry on the cycle of their existence. For this purpose ample provision has been made by the Lord, the Sustainer of the Worlds. He has endowed all organic bodies with the capacity to absorb and assimilate the elements of food they need for their nourishment and the innate urge to seek them. But for this instinctive urge all organic bodies—plants, animals and human beings—would cease to exist, putting an end to the hustle and bustle of life on the planet.

There is another aspect that requires attention in this respect. In the scheme of the universe continuity of the lives of the species is much more important than the mere survival of the individuals,—for, individuals have been granted with a very limited span of life, and

in order that life may continue to flourish it is incumbent that before individuals pass away from the world of the living to the world of the dead new members of their species should be born to take their place. To cater to this overriding need nature has made provisions for procreation. Distribution of species into males and females, differences in the physiological and psychological states of the sexes, inherent attraction of both towards each other and the irresistible urge for the sexual relationship amongst them,—all are parts of an overall scheme that requires them to live a life of co-operation and concord and to procreate so that when they go from this world they have played their part in bringing members of their species to replace them and to continue their participation in the great drama of life that is being staged on the earth. Had this great design not been there there was certainly no necessity of creating males and females, men and women, two distinct sexes.

It would also be an interesting field of study to see how conscious nature is of this particular aspect of the problem. Any keen student of the world would testify to the fact that the species who procreate profusely lack in the feelings of compassion and love for their offspring, something indispensable to protect and rear the progeny. The reason seems to be that such species continue to multiply simply by dint of their abundance in numbers, and hence no special care for their protection and rearing is called for. Such species could continue to exist solely because of their numbers. But species with limited number of

offsprings have been endowed with intense love for them and the parents are made to protect and nourish them for quite a long period of time till they are able to look after themselves. In this regard a human child is the weakest of all and requires parental care for the longest period of time.

Moreover, the sexual urge of the animal species is either seasonal or confined to instinctive disposition only. But in human being sexual passion is neither seasonal nor just instinctive. Man's relationship with woman, therefore, is not of a transient or fleeting nature but both are driven by their very nature to adhere to each other and thus the attachment is firm and permanent. These, *inter alia*, are some of the important factors that lead to the development of civic sense in human beings. This make the need fot home and family incumbent, and from it develop the ties of social life, from individual to family, from family to clan or tribe, from tribe to community, or nation, from nation to the human race. The entire superstructure of culture is based on it and moves around this pivot.

Let us reflect on the physiology of a human being. Biological studies show that in his physiology make-up more regard has been kept for the interests of his race than the interests of the individual, and whatever powers and abilities have been endowed to a human being they serve more the interest of his species. In human body the sexual glands render the most vital service. These glands on the one hand supply hormones to the human body that make him beautiful and charming, make him vigorous and youthful, produce intelli-

gence and alertness of mind, fill him with stamina and vitality ; and on the other hand, these very glands provide the procreative energy that impels a man and a woman to seek company. The age in which a human being is most inclined and competent to render procreative service to his race is that very period of his life when he is full of youthful vigour, charming personality, dynamic activity. And when he is no longer in a positon to render this service to his species, the old age sets in and all his power begin to wane. Decline in virility does in fact announce the decline of his career. If sexual glands of a man are extracted, he is rendered unfit not only for service to the species but also to serve his person effectively. With the loss of these glands his mental and physical potentialities are markedly impaired and his entire personality is affected.

Similar is the case with the physiology of woman. It is the interests of the race that take precedence and this is much more pronounced in woman that what we find in man. It appears as if the entire machinery of the woman's body is directed to serve the needs of the race. Her personality seeks its fulfilment in procreation and everything is directed towards this end. As soon as she attains puberty menstruation begins which renders her fit for conception, thence onward. And soon after the conception has taken place her entire psycho-physical being undergoes a remarkable change. Now the interests of the child reign supreme over every organ of her body. Only that much of energy is left over for herself which is necessary to keep her alive otherwise the entire vital force is diverted towards the development of the

child. And precisely this is what develops in the nature of a woman the feelings of love, sacrifice and altruism. That is, maternal love is much more deep and rich in content and expression than paternal love. After confinement another very remarkable change takes place in her body and this prepares her for suckling her baby. During this period the milk glands absorb the finest elements out of the blood of the mother and convert them into milk food for the child and here again nature forces her to render sacrifice for the best interests of the species and the race. After this period is over, woman's body once again gets prepared for a second conception. And then this process goes on as long as she remains capable of rendering this service to the race. And as she loses this capacity she approaches the end of her career. By the time she reaches old age, all beauty, freshness, charm depart from her. Her vibrant youthfulness, charming looks, and bewitching form all leave her. In fact it is the beginning of all sorts of bodily ailments and psychological depression and apathy that actually culminates in death.

This abundantly shows that the best period for a woman's life is the one when she is most suited for the procreation of her race, and when she is left to live just for herself, that is the worst and the most difficult time she has to brace.

The points we have discussed above have been very ably dealt with by a Russian scientist, Anton Nemilov in his *Biological Tragedy of Woman*.[117] Nemilov throws

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117. The book was published in Russia. Its English translation was published from London in 1932.

ample light on the fact that a woman is created by nature for the sole purpose of procreation of the species. Other authorities endorse this view. We may, for example, refer to Dr. Alexis Carrel, a Nobel Prize Winner, who in his book *Man the Unknown*, says :—

> "Man's part in reproduction is short. That of the woman lasts nine months. During this time the foetus is nourished by chemicals, which filter from the maternal blood through the membranes of the placenta. While the mother supplies her child with the elements from which its tissues are constructed, she receives certain substances secreted by the embryonic organs . . . females, at any rate among mammals, seem only to attain their full development after one or more pregnancies. Women who have no children are not so well balanced and become more nervous than others . . . The importance to her of the generative function has not been sufficiently recognised. Such function is indispensable for her optimum development. It is, therefore, absurd to turn woman against maternity. The same intellectual and physical training, and the same ambitions, should not be given to young girls as to boys. Educators should pay very close attention to the organic and mental peculiarities of the male and the female, and to their natural function.[118]

Another outstanding sexologist Dr. Oswald Schwarz says :

> "What need does the sexual instinct reveal and help to satisfy ? That it has something to do with propagation is obvious. . . .In our understanding Biology comes to our aid. It is a

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118. Carrel, Dr. Alexis, *Man, the Unknown*, Hamish Hamilton London, 1948, pp. 94-95.

> well-proved biological law that every organ of our body wants to function, to do its job, and if it is prevented from doing it, trouble arises. A large part of a woman's body is organised for gestation, and if a woman is denied this fulfilment of her physical and mental organization she withers. But in motherhood she acquires a new, a spiritual beauty, which by far outshines any damage her body may have suffered—so long as she is a real mother and has for her partner a real man who perceives this transfiguration.[119]

Some other observations of Dr. Schwarz also deserve to be noted. He asserts that "the woman fulfils herself in her sexual function".[120] Stating the psychological point of view he says, "A woman needs to have a child as an essential part of her self-fulfilment, and a marriage in which she is, arbitrarily or by misfortune, denied this achievement, loses a good deal of meaning for her and is through the frustration of her maternal instinct for many a woman essentially null and void."[121] Another sexologist, Anthony M. Ludovici, writes in *Woman : A Vindication* :

> "It seems eminently desirable to emphasise more than we have emphasised in the past the ideal of matrimony for every woman up to a certain age, and bring home to parents that marriage is what they must train them for. . .Anything else that she may do must be always the second best

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119. Schwarz, Oswald, *The Psychology of Sex*, Pelican, 1957, p. 17.

120. *Ibid.*, p. 158.

121. *Ibid.*, pp. 240-241.

> to this; and those who, by misrepresentation and appeals to vanity, persuade her while she is yet quite young that there are callings better than, or at least as good as motherhood for her, are enemies not only of woman but also of the species.[122]

The same author also says:

> "Immersed as woman obviously is up to her shoulders in the business of life and its multiplication, let it be said plainly and unequivocally, all those who teach her that any other business is her business, all those who, in the face of the dilemma of modern problems, confuse her with tales about a true womanhood away from life and its multiplications; all those, in short, who beguile her with promises of happiness, contentedness, or even comfort, without her primary adaptation to man and the child, are liars both unscrupulous and criminal."[123]

This discussion leads us to fully appreciate and comprehend the import of the Qur'anic verse when it says that the preservation of the race is nature's main purpose in establishing sexual relations between man and woman. And along with it another object is to enable mankind to adopt family life and thereby lay foundations of culture and civilization. The charm and attraction which God has endowed in man and woman for each other and the pleasure they get in marital relations are all for the reason that they perform their mission in life with real interest and zeal. It is a wage for the service he renders to the race. Now if a person is interested

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122. Quoted, Waheed, K. A., *Woman's Place in National Life*, Karachi, p. 28.

123. *Ibid.*, pp. 28-29.

only in pleasure and refuses to fulfil the real object thereof, he is guilty of "changing the creation of God", of destroying the scheme He laid. He uses the organs and powers which were entrusted to him by God for the supreme objective of the preservation of race, for something that was not the prime objective. Pleasure is a part of the entire game, it is a byproduct of a service human being are to perform and not its objective. Defeating the purpose and seeking the lust is not the way nature has ordained. It would be something similar to the behaviour of a man who is so obsessed with the taste and relish one gets in eating, that he chews the food but instead of passing the substance down the throat to the stomach and enable the entire digestive system to start functioning throws everything out of the mouth. Just as this behaviour will starve his body and result in suicide, the person who enters into marital relations to seek pleasure alone and does not allow the object of the procreation of the race to be fulfilled is guilty of genocide. He would be trying to play fraud with nature. Nature's provision of pleasure in this act is in fact a reward for the service he renders to fulfil an important function, a task nature has placed on his shoulders. But such a person wants to pocket the reward but refuses to render the service. Isn't it deceit and fraud ? And should such treachery be condoned, what to say of being eulogised ?

Chapter 6

CURSE OR CURE ?

BIRTH CONTROL is being presented by many as a panacea for the problems of our age. But can such an interference with God's creation, such a violation of man's nature, and such a meddling with the nature's scheme of things really prove a boon and a blessing to mankind. Those who look only to one side of the medal or only on a part of the picture may be swept by this claim, but if one is to study all relevant aspects of the problem and particularly the social, economic, moral and political consequences of the adoption of this alleged remedy one is bound to say propaganda has scored a victory over facts and the people are being fed largely on fads and foibles. Providence seldom lets go unpunished those who try to beguile her. They, in one way or the other, receive their due chastisement. The Holy Qur'an warns all such elements that they shall get their punishment :

> "They are lost indeed who kill their children foolishly without knowledge and deny what Allah has given to them, forging a lie against Allah."[124]

In this verse, not only infanticide, has been prohibited and declared an act of folly, depriving oneself in any form of the blessings of progeniture has also been des-

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124. *Al-Qur'an*, 6 : 140.

cribed as *khusarān*—a great loss. We have now to see how this loss manifests itself in various forms.

I

Physical and Spiritual Aspects

Since the procreative activity is directly linked with man's physical organism and his psyche, it would be worthwhile to study the impact of birth control on man's body and mind.

We have already seen that the real purpose of nature in distributing the human species into the male and female sex is procreation of species. The nature of man and woman demands that they should produce children. Specially, woman has been endowed with an innate love and care for her offspring. The working of the sex glands has deep and far-reaching effects on human body: they serve the dual purpose of service to the species and of generating beauty, vitality, vigour and mental capability. Woman, in particular, is so constituted that the entire machinery of her being is meant for the service of procreation of race, a primary objective of her existence. If we reflect on the implications of this arrangement we cannot conclude that when man hankers after pleasure in marital relationships and refuses shouldering the responsibilities that entails and not prepared to fulfil their real objective, something that is incarnate in his nature and which is demanded by every fibre of his being—it is impossible that his nervous system and the organic arrangement shall remain uneffected. Injury is bound to be caused to them, and experience shown that it is.

The studies made by the National Birth Commission of Great Britain on the problems of birth control from medical point of view were made public in a report published in 1927. It has been admitted in the report that the use of contraceptives disturbs the male constitution which may lead to temporary impotence or fall in virility. But the overall effects on man's health are not injurious. Nevertheless it is feared that if the husband fails to have a full satisfaction of his natural urges, his matrimonial life would be robbed of its real bliss and as such he may drift towards other sources of satisfaction which might impair his health or expose him to venereal diseases. This was about the males. As far as the females are concerned their effects are bound to be disturbing. Use of contraceptives is healthy only when it is required on medical grounds or where child-bearing has become excessive. But if there is no such cause for action, use of contraceptive violently irritates the entire nervous system of women and produces irritation and bad temper. And as she fails, to get real satisfaction her relations with her husband become strained. These effects have particularly been produced when couples have resorted to coitus interruptus.[125]

Dr. Mary Scharlieb states on the basis of her clinical observations spread over forty year that whatever means of birth control are resorted to—be they pessaries, foam tablets, condours, diaphragms, or flexible coils—they may not immediately adversely affect the user, but if

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125. This is a reproduction of the findings of the Commission in our own words and should not be taken as a quotation.

—Editor.

they are used persistently, with aging the woman would succumb to nervous instability. This may result in depression, irritation, easy provocability, low blood pressure, insomnia, weakening of the heart and brain, irregularity in menstrual cycles. All these are but the results of the use of contraceptive devices. Other medical practitioners have warned that excessive use of these devices may even produce 'falling of the womb', forgetfulness, melancholia, hysteria and even insanity. It has also been feared that a womb which is not producing children may develop such changes in her organic composition that may render a woman unable to procreate any later, and even if she conceives her entire course of pregnancy and confinement may be passed with great pain and inconvenience.

Professor Leonard Hill, M.D. says that all changes that take place in a woman on attaining maturity relates to procreation. Menstruation cycles are there to prepare the woman again and again for conception. All the organs which are prepared for it at every period get frustrated in case of a woman who avoids pregnancy. This produces disturbance and even disorder in the sex organs. Menstruations become irregular and painful. Breasts subside. Beauty of the looks fades. Temperament becomes fickle and irritated. Dr. Hill stresses the sex glands play a very important part in man's life. The glands which produce sex-energy are also responsibe for producing general virility, alacrity and beauty. They also influence many character traits. If these glands fail to seek fulfilment in respect of their main purpose, they refuse to serve the subsidiary purposes as well. In view

of this, stopping woman from conception and pregnancy is tantamount to disturbing and suspending her entire organism and rendering it meaningless.[126]

Dr. Oswald Schwarz has already been quoted in an earlier chapter. He says :

> "It is a well-proved biological law that every organ of our body wants to function, to do its job, and if it is prevented from doing it, trouble arises. A large part of woman's body is organised for gestation, and if a woman is denied this fulfilment of her physical and mental organization she withers. But in motherhood she acquires a new, a spiritual beauty, which by far outshine any damage her body may have suffered so long as she is a real mother and has for her partner a real man who perceives this transfiguration."[127]

If one is to look upon the problem in its wider perspective one is forced to the conclusion that birth control is an affliction, particularly for the woman. It makes her violate her innate nature, and frustrate the purpose of her being. As such her entire physical being and nevous system are disturbed and distressed.

First, birth control by its very nature is a revolt against the natural order and its harmful consequences are too obvious. And then the methods used for controlling birth leave an adverse effect on man and woman, and on woman specially their consequences are sometimes

126. Dr. Arnold Lurand's book *Life Shortening Habits and Rejuvenation* was published from Philidelphia in 1922. A summary of his views has been given in our own words as the original book was not available to the translators.—Ed.

127. Schwarz, Dr. Oswald, *The Psychology of Sex*, p. 17.

so disastrous that her entire physical personality is rocked.

Abortion

One of the oldest and widely practised methods of birth control is abortion. In spite of the widespread use of contraceptives even now it is being largely practised throughout the world. In certain countries clubs and clinics have been established for this specific purpose. The reason for this is that no contraceptive is hundred per cent effective. In spite of all measures, conception does some time take place, and those who are not prepared to tolerate the unwelcome child resort to abortion.

Propagandists for birth control generally argue that family planning reduces the number of abortions. But the facts tell a different tale. According to the figures available for United States of America, as stated by Paul H. Gebhard, 8 per cent of women before marriage and from 20 to 25 per cent after getting married resort to abortion.[128] In Japan, after the Second World War, the birth control movement got enthusiastic support from the American Supreme Commander, but discerning observers noted that this movement has given an extraordinary rise to cases of abortion. "The increase in abortion" says McCormack, "goes hand in hand with the number of those who use contraceptives. The percentage went up from 21.5 per cent in 1950 to 25 per cent in 1955. In spite of an intensified campaign carried

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128. Gebhard, Paul H., *Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion*, New York, 1958, pp. 56 and 119.

on for the use of contraceptives, the practice of abortion has become more widespread than that of contraception itself. Professor Sauvy says, "If to the number of normal births (1.7 million) we add the number of abortions (1.2 million) we come to the same, or even a larger, total of conceptions than before the War, when abortion was prohibited."[129]

According to a demographic survey carried out by *Mainichi*, a daily newspaper of Japan, abortion was six times more common in families where birth control was practised than in those which did not practise it.[130]

About England, the Royal Commission on Population found that the families practising birth control resort to abortion 8.27 times more than the rest.

Professor Irene B. Taeuber of the Princeton University of America arrives at the same conclusion after exhaustive survey and research. His findings are that abortions have risen since contraception came in, and that it is resorted to not only by mothers, but also by girls of less than twenty years.

Medical opinion is almost unanimous in asserting that abortion is highly dangerous for the general health of a woman and her nervous system. We will quote here Dr. Frederick J. Taussig who has so succinctly summed up the expert medical opinion on the subject :

> "When pregnancy is prematurely interrupted by what we term abortion, the human race suffers loss and damage in 3 ways :

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129. McCormack, Arther, *People*, *Space*, *Food*, Sheed and Ward, London, 1960, p. 67.

130. *Ibid.*, pp. 86-87*n*.

First, an infinite number of potential human beings are destroyed before their birth.

Secondly, abortion carries with it a considerable death rate among expectant mothers.

And finally, abortion leaves in its wake a high incidence of pathologic conditions some of which interfere with the further possibility of reproduction.[131]

Contraceptives

Besides abortion, other means for birth control are utilized that are known as contraceptives. But the experts are of the opinion that :

1. None of these methods produces sure results ;
2. None is without its own harmful after-effects on the physical and nervous system of women.

Dr. Clair E. Folsome says :

"We have no known, harmless, simple or low cost method today with which we can apply fertility control."[132]

Every contraceptive produces some profound psychological effects. This is an area which has not been fully explored by the researchers. It is being increasingly realised that the use of contraceptives creates psychological tensions and disturbs sexual pleasure.[133]

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131. Taussig, Frederick J., "The Abortion Problem", *Proceedings of the Conference of National Committee on Maternal Health*, Baltimore, 1944, p. 39.

132. Folsome, Claire E., "Progress in the Search for Methods of Family Limitation suitable for Agrarian Societies", *Approaches to Problems of High Fertility in Agrarian Societies*, Milbank Memorial Fund, New York, 1952, p. 130.

133. McCormack, *op. cit.*, p. 74.

Dr. Sattiyavati throws some light on this problem in her book *Family Planning*. It is reported that she has said that in certain cases birth control produces very dangerous consequences. Contentment of the heart comes to an end. Psychological irritation and nervous tension increase. Sleeplessness occurs. Mental balance is disturbed and even hysteric condition appear. Women are made sterile while men lose their virility.[134]

Nowadays there is a lot of talk about the oral pill. The views of a gynaecologist on this pill may be read with interest :

> "While, however, it is yet too early to give an authoritative medical opinion on the subject, it does seem that it surely cannot be a safe means of contraception and that it may well have harmful repercussions later on in a woman's life. The drug works by suppressing ovulation and thus interfering with the woman's menstrual cycle, and it is difficult to believe that one can change one of the most important endocrine functions in woman without causing some effect."[135]

About these pills, *British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice* (*Interim Supplement*) has some revelations to make. Dr. G. I. M. Swyer says :

> "The possibility of long-term harmful effects cannot of course, be discounted at this stage. The main drawbacks of the method are the inconvenience of having to take the 20-day course of tablets without fail and according to the proper plan, the high expense of the tablets

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134. Vide : *Pakistan Times*, Lahore September 21, 1959, p. 4.
135. Quoted by McCormack, *op. cit*., p. 81.

> and the far too high incidence of untoward effects, greatly lessening the acceptability of the treatment by the patient.[136]

According to newspaper reports, and English physician, Dr. Ranel Dukes has declared the contraceptive pills to be highly dangerous. He fears that they produce headache, nervous ailment and even cancer.[137]

This is a brief survey of the highly dangerous nature of the contraceptives. And the irony is that in spite of all the risks involved one cannot be sure of the efficacy of them at all. In this regard the report of the Commission on Sterilization in England referred to the "harassing uncertainty of contraceptive measures". Dr. M. Ekblad of Sweden experimented contraceptive measures on 479 women and 38 per cent of them became pregnant in spite of the use of contraceptives, within 22 months of having a legal abortion.[138]

Besides these hazards another irreparable harm is done by these contraceptives. When after their use the couple feels immune from the danger of conception carnal passions know no bounds. Man's sexual encroachment of woman becomes uncontrollable and this develops a purely animal-relationship between the two with sex playing the dominant role. This state of affairs is highly detrimental to physical health as well as moral

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136. Swyer, Dr. G. I. M., "Contraception: 1. Physiology of Ovulation with Special Reference to Oral Contraception," *British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice*, Interim Supplement, 202, July 1959, p. 2.

137. Vide : *Sidqe Jadeed*, Lucknow, November 18, 1960.

138. Ekblad, Martin, *Induced Abortion on Psychiatric Grounds*, Stockholm, 1955, pp. 18, 19, 99-102.

well being. Dr. Forster has referred to this aspect when he says that if man directs himself exclusively to the sex passion to the neglect of all other aspects of matrimony and there is no force to bridle the state of affairs that would be produced would be much more dirty and disturbing and dangerous than what it can be in the case of unlimited multiplication of the children. This warning contains a large grain of truth.

II

Social Dislocations

The effects of birth control on the family life are also disturbing. Its first effect on the relationship of husband and wife is that when the natural urges of both remain unsatisfied there creep in them by and by lack of wholesomeness in this relation, then a feeling of antipathy which soon develops into lack of regard and compassion, and then coldness, and before long positive disgust and hatred for each other. Specially in the case of woman continuous use of these measures gives birth to nervous tension, nagging, and short-temper, putting an end to all the bliss and felicity of the home life.

The spiritual bond of matrimonial relations is also damaged. From the physical standpoint man and woman are driven towards each other just for animal relationship amongst them. But what elevates this relationship from an animal level to spiritual height and turns it into bonds of deep love and compassion, is their common interest for the rearing and training of their children and resolve to live a family life. Birth control

precludes the development of the highly firm bond of spiritual relationship between the spouses. They fail to rise above the animal level. Consequently they do enjoy the company of each other for some time and then are gradually fed up. In this purely animal relationship all men and women are just alike, with no discrimination whatsoever to go along and enjoy with. When the object is just sexual gratification, why at all a couple should keep company and remain loyal to each other for a whole lifetime. Other than the moral and sacramental considerations, children are a cementing force for keeping husband and wife firm, abiding, and loyal to their relationship. Where there are no children it becomes difficult to maintain even the filial bond. This precisely is the reason why in Europe and America marital relations have weakened so much, and with the widespread use of birth control devices, divorces have become so common a feature that the foundations of life and of the family system are fast shattering to pieces.

III

Moral Effects

Birth control brings to bear a pernicious influence upon the moral life of man in a variety of ways:

(1) Man and woman enjoy complete freedom to enter into sexual relationship with anyone they may choose. The grip of moral and legal scruples begins to loosen and sexual licence increases. Illegitimate children do not carry any blemish and illicit sexual relation-

ships get encouragement in the society.[139]

(2) Sex obsession, voluptuary tendencies, self-indulgences, obscenity and sensuality increase and moral degeneration overtake the entire society and spread like an epidemic. Be it Rome of Caesars or the West of today, widespread use of birth control has not remained confined to the mere regulation of the number of births, it has torn the entire moral fabric of the society and let loose a flood of immorality and sensuality.

(3) Couples having no children fail to possess those moral virtues which develop only through care and training of the children. Just as parents provide training to their children so the children are an effective means of training for their parents. The qualities of love, sacrifice and altruism develop in the parents while tending their offspring. They behave with foresight and discretion, patience and fortitude. They exercise self-control, simplicity and moderation in living, and don't become crazy for acquisition of personal comforts and conveniences. Birth control deprives many a couple with these moral values. God Almighty has done a great honour to man by bestowing upon him the power to procreate, provide and sustain the children, a reflection of the Divine attributes of Creation and Sustenance. This has provided the human beings with an opportunity to mould their character after the attributes of the

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139. "While the knowledge of contraceptives may increase the marriage rate, it also facilitates extra-matrimonial intercourse, the great frequency of which is, in our days, regarded as another indication of the doom of marriage." Dr. Westermarck, *Future of Marriage in Civilization*, quoted by Siddiqi, M., *Women in Islam*, Lahore, 1959, p. 155.

Divine. This is an area wherein the lives of men and women can shine with qualities divine. But by resort to birth control, man denies to himself the honour and blessing which God did to him.

(4) If by resort to birth control one has only one or two children with an age difference of a number of years in between them, it poses a serious problem for their moral education and training. A child who does not get an occasion to live and play, learn and enjoy, move and behave with his elder and younger brothers and sisters, is not able to acquire some of the most important moral qualities and attitudes. Children cannot learn everything from their parents alone ; they learn much more from each other and are a source of training to each other. When they live under one roof they learn how to live with mutual trust and cooperation, love and sympathy, sacrifice and selflessness. They keep an eye upon each other and thus nip many a moral ills in the bud. Persons having only one or two children deprive their offspring of a precious arrangement for moral education and training. Home is a cradle of civilization and atomistic families fail to develop in the children some of the choicest qualities of character. It is a loss which is colossal and irreparable. This has adverse effects upon the psychology of the children. They develop feelings of loneliness and deprivation. They become selfish and unable for mutual adjustment in social life. Their mental, moral and psychological development is retarded. If there are wide age difference between the children they do not make up real companions. And "lacking companions, the child's physiological expan-

siveness, fed by his boredom, persists in getting him into trouble ; screaming, running around the apartment, upsetting the daddy's shaving mug, rending teddy-bear in two, emptying his milk on the rug to observe what pattern will be formed."[140] Such a child never develops a balanced personality all his life. He suffers from nervous strains and tensions and often develops neurosis. Psychologists maintain that if there is an appreciable gap in the ages of two children, the possibility of the first child's developing a neurosis is always there.[141]

(5) There is yet another aspect which has very adverse effects on the child. Mother, in such a family, is torn between career or children. "The fact that small families are the rule is one of the factors driving woman out of the home. Now that they are not in the home a kind of a vicious circle is formed, for it is no longer convenient to be occupied in the home by one or two children. Much conflict centers here, for it is one of the problems of the culture which as yet have no generally satisfactory solution..Individual women have worked out ways of having both children and career, but most women still do one or the other ; and in either case there are regrets and often neurotic discontent."[142] In such a state of affairs "it is inevitable that the child

140. Green, Arnold W., "The Middle Class Male Child and Neurosis", *A Modern Introduction to Family*, ed. by Norman W. Bell and Ezra F. Vogel, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1961, p. 568.

141. See : Levy, David M., *Maternal Overprotection*, Columbia University Press, New York, 1943.

142. Thompson, Clare, "The Role of Women in This Culture", *Psychiatry*, IV (1941), p. 6.

shall be viewed with some degree of ambivalence by both father and mother, for he represents a direct interference with most of the dominant values and compulsions of the modern middle class; career, social and economic success hedonistic enjoyment."[143] This is the state of the parents. Its effects on the child, who is treated as unwanted and unwelcome, or at least unloved and unlooked after, are highly disturbing. Such a child never feels at home in his home and society, particularly of the youth and the adolescents are a product of the tensions generated by birth control.

IV

Effects on Race and Nation

So far we have studied some of the major problems which are generated by the practice of birth control and which affect men, women and children in their individual capacity. We will now have a look to the baneful effects it makes upon the human race and on a particular nation or group of people as a whole.

(a) Dearth of Capable Persons

The astonishing arrangements God has made for the creation of man are a wonder of divine planning. Man's contribution in the entire process is but insigni-

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143. Green, Arnold W., "The Middle Class Male Child and Neurosis", *op. cit*, p. 568. Also see: Burgess, Earnest W., and Cottrell, Leonard S., *Predicting Success or Failure in Marriage*, Prentice-Hall, New York, 1939; and Terman, Lewis M., *Psychological Factors in Marital Happiness*, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1938.

ficant. The sperm is, no doubt, deposited in the ovum through him, but that's all that lies in his hands. The entire generative process is a part of the divine scheme and it operates without man's tamperings. His role is no more than that of an ordinary actor in a great drama. This 'actor' struts about on the stage for a few moments and disappears, all the rest lies beyond his kin. How this process works is a marvel of creation. Every time a man meets a woman he introduces some 300 to 400 million sperms into female body when they rush to meet the female egg-cell. Each one of these sperms is imbued with distinct hereditary and personal characteristics and traits. There are, in them, dullards and idiots as well as intellectuals and philosophers ; Aristotles and Avicennas, Changhezs and Napoleons, Shakespeares and Firdausis, Dantes and Mussolinis, Saints and Sinners, Yogies and Commissars, Nobles and Dacoits. It does not lie in the power of man to direct out of his own choosing, a particular sperm having specific traits to fertilise an egg-cell with desirable qualities, and thus produce a particular type of man. This is a domain where God's will alone holds supreme. He alone decides what type of men are to be sent amongst a particular people at a particular time. Man who is quite ignorant of the ultimate consequences of his actions and cannot rationally interfere in the scheme and design of the Supreme Being and if he in his hot-headedness tries to interfere he would, nonetheless, be like a blind man in a dark room striking a stick all around not knowing what it strikes and what it destroys. It should not sound strange then that through birth control a person

may cause to stop the birth of a great military leader or statesman or a philosopher and as a result of man's insolence and arrogance the society may be punished through paucity of talented persons and the abundance of the lower stock. There is no gainsaying the fact that when a nation practises birth control on a fairly large scale such a nation does suffer with an acute dearth of capable persons.

And this, too, should not be lost sight of that ordinarily those families are more successful in life who have larger number of children. Families with fewer children are comparatively speaking less successful. According to Professor Colin Clark :

> "While the problems of educating a large family are undoubtedly onerous, nevertheless it is not true to say that parents, by begetting another child, must thereby inevitably injure the interests of the children already born. Parents are perhaps now beginning to realise intuitively what was discovered in fact by Mr. Bresard in France. He was able to trace the subsequent careers of the sons of a larger number of higher professional and business families, comparing the sons of large families with those of small, and found that the former had eventually more successful careers than the latter."[144]

(*b*) Blow to National Interests

When birth control is being widely preached and practised, everyone decides, in view of his personal circumstances, prejudices and inclination, as to how many children he may have or may not have any

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144. See : Clark, Colin, "Too Small Families", *The Times*, London, March 15, 1959.

children at all. While making this decision he primarily looks to his personal interests only and not to the national interests *viz.*, how many children are required to maintain the national population. Individuals can neither work out a correct estimate in this regard nor do they in fact pay any heed to the needs and requirements of the nation in preference to their personal interests. Consequently the strength of the new generations becomes dependent upon the personal motives of the individuals composing that society, and the birth rate often declines, the nation after a certain stage seems powerless to check it. If this trend of preferring one's interests to those of the nation persists still worse consequences can follow and people who are trained in such a tradition cannot be dependable in protecting the wider interests of the nation, particularly when they are in conflict with their personal interests. And when a nation's leadership vests in such persons, the future of the nation cannot be bright.

(*c*) Eclipse of National Power

If the population of a nation persistently declines to a large scale practice of birth control, it means that the eclipse of national power is imminent. Any epidemic or outbreak of war which may take a heavy toll of man-power may result in shortage of men and it would be well nigh impossible to devise means to immediately replenish those who die. This is not an imaginary danger. History is replete with instances where such a situation produced disastrous consequences. Greece, about 2,000 years back, fell victim to a similar calamity. Abortion and infanticide became widely prevalent in Greece result-

ing in marked decline of her population. During that very period civil war broke out, killing a goodly part of the manpower. These twin factors so weakened the Greek nation that it could not regain its power and strength. Ultimately others overpowered her and it was forced to live a life of servitude in its own homeland. The Western nations face a similar situation today. This danger has been multiplied by the advent of atomic warfare. The atom bomb that struck Hiroshima was of 20 ton TNT. It killed 78,150 persons, injured 37,525 and 13,082 remained untraced. Now, bombs of 100 million ton TNT, that is five thousand times more powerful than the one that destroyed the unfortunate city of Hiroshima, have been manufactured. If, God forbid, the world is ever engulfed in an atomic war, what havoc would befall the people and to what extent populations would be reduced, even imagination shudders to visualise. But such is the situation that confronts mankind. The West is once again faced with a situation very similar to the one that beset the Greeks in their latter days. This is the road to suicide. But should we also blindly pursue this dangerous course and join this dance of death ?

V

Economic Effects

The bogey of economics has most often been raised in connection with the need of birth control. It has been painted as the economic solution of man's problems. But this is a very partial and distorted view. The

protagonists of birth control refuse to face the whole of truth. There is abundant evidence to show that in the economic balance-sheet of birth control, its disadvantages outweigh its advantages. Some economists have begun to realise that a declining population is a very important factor in bringing about economic depression. This is so because with a decrease in population, the consuming population is reduced as against producing population with the inescapable consequence that effective demand is reduced and unemployment ensues. The producing population consists of persons in the age-groups 20-65, the consuming population includes old and incapacitated as well as the children, whose contribution to production is not direct. If their numbers decrease, on the whole there will be a marked decline in consumption and spending. This will adversely affect production which will have to be readjusted to reduced demand. That is why an influential group of economists, specially in Germany and Italy, has pleaded with fervour for increasing the population. And now a section of British and American economists also upholds a more or less similar view. In this connection persons of the stature of Lord Keynes, Professor Alvin H. Hansen, Professor Colin Clark, and Professor G. D. H. Cole may be mentioned. The viewpoint presented by Keynes-Hansen school of thought has been summarised by Professor Joseph J. Spengler as follows :

> "A population upsurge thus tends to intensify economic activity, particularly if expansive forces already are more powerful than contractive forces ; and conversely...... The Keynes-Hansen thesis that increasing under-employ-

ment tends to be consequent upon a continuing decline in the incremental rate of population growth appears to have won considerable acceptance. Because a tapering off of population growth both diminishes the need for investment in the equipping of additions to the population and tends to affect diverse other investment demands adversely, the rate of investment associated with full employment tends to fall as the rate of population growth falls. Furthermore, this fall in investment is not likely to be off-set by a corresponding fall in the rate of net savings associated with full employment even though the aging of a population does entail an increase in both dissaving and governmental expenditures upon the aged, and despite the fact that the spread of the small-family system may weaken motives to saving. In consequence of the resulting increasing imbalance between planned saving and investment at full employment, under-employment tends to increase *ceteris paribus* as the incremental rate of population growth falls. Persisting general unemployment rises and cyclical and disguised unemployment is intensified."[145]

Professor Colin Clark writes :

"There are a great many industries which are quite specifically benefited by increasing population. In fact most of economic operations of a modern community are carried out in the way that, if there were an increase in the population and the size of the market, organization would become more economical and productivity per head would increase, not decrease. Without the large and densely settled population of North America and

145. Spengler, Joseph J., "Population Theory", *A Survey of Contemporary Economics*, Illinois, 1952, Vol. II, p. 116.

> Western Europe, most modern industries would be working under great difficulties and at very high cases—it is doubtful, indeed, whether they could have come into existence at all."[146]

This survey of the harms caused by birth control is based on facts, and it demonstrates, in part, the truth contained in the Qur'anic verse :

> "They are losers indeed who killed their children foolishly without knowledge, and forbade what Allah hath given to them."[147]

We can also appreciate the full import and implications of yet another verse of the Holy Book :

> "And when he (the man) came to have power in his hands, he made schemes to promote disorder in the earth, destroy crops and commit homicide."[148]

In the light of the above discussion we can appreciate why destruction of crops and of races has been regarded as spreading disorder on the earth. Further this discussion also makes the meaning of the following verse amply clear in which God says :

> "And do not kill your children out of fear of poverty ; We alone are theirs as well as your nourisher ; their killing is a great fault indeed."[149]

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146. Clark, Colin : "Population Growth and Living Standards", *International Labour Review*, August 1953, pp. 101-2.

147. *Al-Qur'an*, 6 : 140.

148. *Ibid.*, 2 : 205.

149. *Ibid.*, 17 : 31.

It points out that reducing number of children for fear of economic difficulties is a folly. Either infanticide or putting a stop to their births—both the deeds are foolish.

Chapter 7

THE CASE FOR BIRTH CONTROL : AN APPRAISAL

WE HAVE discussed in foregoing chapters different aspects of the problem of birth control—positive as well as negative. Now it would be in the fitness of things to discuss and appraise the major arguments that are advanced in favour of a policy of birth control. The real bone of contention is whether birth control should be adopted as an objective of national and social policy or not. Our contention is that it should not be so adopted. To support this view we shall try to evaluate the different arguments that are advanced in support of this policy.

I

Assumption and Approach

Most of the arguments that are given in support of birth control are generally based upon the circumstances and conditions of life generated by Western culture and civilization. The supporters of birth control assume that the norms of the Western society are something given and all our thinking must be made within that framework. They assume that the mode of life developed in the West is the ideal one, that the prevailing cultural values and patterns are to subsist and that the socio-economic basis of their society is to remain unaltered. They do not see anything wrong with the

system nor feel any need for change, modification or reform. In this given framework they seek to solve the problems, many of which are a product of this very culture. When the problems become more pressing, instead of doing some fresh thinking on the basic cultural issues, they find it convenient to search for short-cuts. One such 'convenient solution' is birth control. They feel that once they stop procreation, everything would be alright in the kingdom of Denmark. But that is not so. We suggest that we have become captives of a particular culture, slaves of a certain framework, enchanted by a specific jargon and set of cliches. Unless we adopt a radically different approach we cannot break the shackles that enchain us. Birth control is not a mere economic or a medical phenomenon. It is the product of a particular culture and a certain socio-economic framework. The problem cannot be solved if we are not prepared to rethink the entire situation. And this is what Islam demands. The economic problem cannot be solved in the context of the capitalistic and materialistic way of life that the West has developed. If the entire system of life is reorganised in accord with the values, tenets and principles given by Islam, an altogether new pattern of life will develop and in that pattern there would be no need for birth control. The problem which besets us all is more fundamental—it calls for a total change and not a partial readjustment. That is why we have raised this point at the very outset. The protagonists of birth control cannot realise their folly unless they are prepared to re-examine the first principles. Our dispute with them

relates to that, as it relates to the specific palliatives they suggest. It is the whole tree, and not merely a few of its branches that obstruct man's healthy advancement.

With this preface we come to those arguments which the protagonists of birth control emphasise beyond measure.

II

The Problem of Economic Scarcity

Their most patent and popular argument is the economic one. It is said that accommodation on the earth is limited, and similarly the economic resources to sustain man are extremely scarce. Man, on the other hand, has unlimited capacity to procreate his species. Earth has a potentiality to support at the most five thousand million persons or so, on a fairly reasonable standard of living. Presently the world population has reached the mark of three thousand million people, and in normal conditions the population may double itself within 30 years. The apprehension, therefore, is quite justified that within a period of 50 years the population will swell to the brim of the earth and henceforth any increase thereto will only bring down the standard of living. Consequently no one would be able to live a decent life. Thus, in order to save humanity from this catastrophe it is but imperative to adopt measures for birth limitation and for keeping population growth within manageable limits.

A Wrong Approach

This argument is based on many a misconception.

Those who advance it fail to comprehend the mighty arrangements God has made for feeding and sustaining the human kind. As they approach the problem from an utterly materialistic angle, they simply ignore the system of providence God has made. Human effort and planning are definitely parts of the great scheme, but they do not go to make up the whole of it. Man is not the only creation in this universe. God's providence is for all, and man is a beneficiary of that. The Lord of the universe is not like a blind and ignorant ruler who cares not to provide for his subjects. Nay God has created everything in this universe in keeping with a plan and a design and they are operating accordingly : "Of course, We have created everything to a set measure".[150] Whatever is bestowed upon mankind is measured and balanced : "And there is not a thing but with Us are the treasures thereof : and We send it not down save in accord with appointed measure".[151] However man may be neglectful of the Providence the fact is that he who has created the universe cannot be knave in the art of creation : "And We could not be ignorant of Our creation."[152]

If the prophets of pessimism tried to look with a discerning eye at the phenomenon of creation and probed deeper into the scheme of Divine purposes and designs and endeavoured to understand the wonderful working of the organization and system that one finds all around, they would have come to the conclusion that the Master

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150. *Al-Qur'an*, 54 : 49.
151. *Ibid.*, 15 : 21.
152. *Ibid.*, 23 : 14.

Mind is certainly extremely accurate in his estimates, and absolutely flawless in his planning. God has created countless species on the limited space of this very planet and each one of the creatures has been endowed with such a tremendous power of procreation that if only one species, or just one couple of certain species, is permitted to procreate without any hindrance, the entire surface of the earth may be filled with its race within a short period of time, no corner being left for any other species. For instance look to the plant known as Sisymbrium sophia, in botany. Every member of this species has three quarters of a million seeds in it. It has been estimated that if all the seeds of only one plant are allowed to germinate, within a period of three years no part of the earth will be available for anything else. Star fish lays two hundred million eggs and if only one of its kind is permitted to add to its numbers, it is estimated that by the third or fourth generation of this fish all the oceans of world will get flooded with it and there may be no room for a drop of water in them. Why not have a look at the man himself in this regard. His procreative potentialities are so tremendous that the sperm produced at one emission is sufficient to impregnate three to four hundred million women. If the potentialites of only one man are allowed to give full play, within a few years' time the entire planet will be full of his offsprings. But who controls this complex phenomenon of creation in the countless species that live in the universe and are endowed with such tremendous procreative capacities. Despite this potential the porcreation remains within certain limits—the varied phenomena is tailored accord-

ing to set measures and everything fits into the mosaic of creation. Who is doing all that ? Who is keeping balance and harmony between the creation ? Are they not the result of a great design, of the Infinite wisdom and plan of an All-Seeing, All-Controlling, All-Powerful Being ? Observations and studies in different fields of sciences testify that organic units are imbued with unestimable capacty of growth and development, to the extent that a single uni-cellular organism contains such tremendous growth capability that if there is a constant supply of nourishment to it and it gets the opportunity of dividing and sub-dividing itself it can produce, within a periol of five years, organic material that may exceed the size of earth by ten thousand times. Who keeps this vital energy under control ? Who after all brings out myriad varieties of the creatures, and with such a perfect measure that nothing is superfluous, nothing is lacking.

If only man would ponder and reflect on these signs of his Creator, he would not be so sceptical about the Divine Scheme and would not think of interfering with its working. His present day scepticism and pessimism are products of ignorance or prejudice. He fails to see the signs of the Creator in his own self and in the world around him. He has not as yet explored the utmost reaches of his own capacities, what to say of the all-embracing Divine arrangements whose complete comprehension lies beyond the reaches of human understanding. With all the knowledge that we have built up, we are becoming only more and more conscious of our ignorance of the grand universe of which we are a

tiny part. But man suffers not only from ignorance, but also arrogance. When he crosses his limits and tries to tamper with God's creation he cannot disturb an iota of it but reaps a harvest of disorders and dislocations for his own kind. He calculates that within ten years the population would rise that limit, and in the next decade it will touch such levels, and after a century it would shoot up to such staggering heights and is dumb founded thereon. But the fallacy he commits is that generalises on his ignorance. The scope of his vision is very limited and instead of confining his studies to what he knows, he also assumes that what he does not know at a particular level of knowledge does not exist and that is why history belies him again and again. But he refuses to learn any lesson therefrom. It is an imaginary problem that he is crying abdut and in his stark pessimism he even fails to take into view what has become known to the mankind. And of course he never stops to think that the Creator and Sustainer, Who provides for everything in the universe and has been doing so for millions and millions of years is aware of all that is needed. He will continue to provide for his creation as long as he wants his drama to operate. The real domain is His. Whatever we do, we do in the framework He provides. We and all that is in the universe act as agencies for the fulfilment of His purposes. And He has guaranteed provision for all :

> "And there is no living being on the earth but the sustenance thereof dependeth on Allah. He knoweth its habitation and its repository. All

is in a clear record."[153]

All these arrangements are being made and the forces controlled from somewhere that is out of our ken. Human imagination staggers when it tries to comprehend the marvellous manifestations of Divine Intelligence. A brief factual survey will demonstrate how unfounded man's pessimism is in respect of the bountiful arrangements the Creator has made for his good and comfort.

Economic Resources and World Population

The rapid pace at which the population of England increased from the end of the eighteenth up to the middle of the nineteenth century was a source of much anxiety to many a thinker and economist. They were unable to understand where this population will go and how will it subsist. But later, everybody saw that the economic resources of the English people expanded in direct proportion to the expansion of their population, and large areas of the world fell under them.

In 1898, Sir William Crookes, President of the British Association had sounded a warning in very emphatic terms that the English nation and all the civilized people of the earth were faced with a dire shortage of wheat and they would be fast taken over by famine and that the world resources could hardly suffice for only thirty years more. But what happened after thirty years ? Nothing of the sort he predicted. And what is more, wheat production reached such a high mark that due to excessive production prices fell down

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153. *Al-Qur'an*, 11 : 6.

in world markets, to the extent that surplus quantities were put on fire in America and Argentine.

Man in his shortsightedness has time and again expressed his apprehensions and doubts in this regard and the testimony of history has always been against his futile conjectures. It has been demonstrated so often that man's own knowledge about the future possibilities is very limited while the potentialities endowed by nature are limitless. Let us therefore see, in the light of the data available, whether the hue and cry that are being presently raised against the population explosion are justified or not.

(*a*) "Standing Room Only"

We will first of all consider the much trumpeted problem of living space on the earth. The total area of earth is 57,168,000 square miles and the total population in 1959 was 2,850,000,000. The density of population is, therefore, 54 persons per square mile and, according to the estimates worked out by the famous geographer Professor Dudley Stamp, each man gets twelve and a half acres.[154] For a layman, we could say that a football field is of about one and a half acre, and as such, each man can have eight such fields, in view of the position as it stood in 1960.

How many persons the earth can actually contain ? We can have some idea if we remember that in an area of a square mile 1,000 persons live in Holland, 852 persons in England, and 22,000 persons live most

154. Stamp, Dudley, *Our Developing World*, London, 1960, p. 39.

comfortably in the city of New York. Vast tracts of land in various parts of the world lie untapped. In China, only ten per cent of its area is under utilization. In Western Africa, 62 per cent of the culturable land is laying waste, *i.e.*, about 1,150,000,000 acres.[155] Brazil utilizes 2.25 per cent out of its 2,000,000,000 acres for agricultural purposes. Canada brings under plough only 8 per cent of its 23,10,000,000 acres.[156] In the face of these facts to complain about lack of accommodation on the earth is sheer self-deception.

Now, if we look at the density of population in various countries, we are presented with a vast scope for progress and development. The density of population of a few areas is as follows :

TABLE 7.1—*Showing Density of Population in certain countries of the world.*[157]

Country	Density per square kilometer
Holland	345
Belgium	297
England	213
Germany	210
Pakistan	91
UAR	23
USA	19
Iran	12
New Zealand	8
Canada	2
Australia	1

155. McCormack, *People, Space, Food, op. cit.*, pp. 20-27

156. *Britannica Book of the Year*, 1958, pp. 387-8.

157. *U. N. Demographic Year Book* 1959, Table I, pp. 119-

Similarly if the density of various continents is to be considered, it is as under:

TABLE 7.2—*Density in the continents*

Continent		Density per square kilometer
Europe	..	85
Asia	..	59
America	..	9
Africa	..	8
Oceana	..	2
Average (the world as a whole)	..	21

This shows that there are vast potentialities of economic development and the sustenance of growing populations. Indeed, in countries like Africa and Australia the dearth of population is responsible for retardation in economic growth and development.[158]

In addition to these vast tracts of land there are deserts and marshes that could be harnessed by applying modern scientific methods and techniques. It has been estimated that only Amazon basin of South America could accommodate a population equal to that of entire Europe. In this respect Parker Hanson's book *New World Emergency* is very revealing. Another work of importance in this ragard is *Man Against Desert* by Ritcher Calder, in which the possibilities of utilization

158. See Stamp, Dudley, *Our Developing World*, London, 1960, p. 52. The author says : "The difficulty is the lack of population."

of desert for human welfare have been explored.[159]

The fact is that there exists no problem at all of any scarcity of space on the earth, nor any such problem is ever going to confront human beings. It is indeed man's own fault, his lack of initiative and his love of ease which prompts him to escape from labour and toil and instead adopt a course that is tantamount to genocide.

(b) The Problem of Food

Another important area that requires probe and study is of the procurement of food for the people. In this regard the available data show that only 10% of the area available on earth is cultivated and out of the remaining 90% if we exclude forests and pastures, we still have 70% that remains unploughed. Moreover, out of the 10% area that is cultivated only a little used for intensive cultivation. To what extent cultivated area can be expanded and utilized, can be seen from the schedule which Professor J. D. Bernal has compiled on the basis of the reports and studies released by the U.N. and its organ FAO.[160]

(*Please See Table* 7.3 *on Page* 129)

These figures show that :

(1) Only 10% of the total area of the world is under cultivation, although 70% is cultivable.

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159. In the *Reader's Digest*, August 1957, Edwin Muller says that one-fourth of the land area of the earth is desert. If through the use of atomic energy sub-soil water can be brought to the fore and sea water de-salinized, these deserts can bloom into green.

160. Bernal J. D., *Worth without War*. Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1952, p. 69.

TABLE 7.3

Showing area under cultivation and cultivable areas

(in million square kilometer)

Country	Total area	Land at present under cultivation		Areas cultivable in future with the help of :						Total Cultivable land	
				The present means of cultivation		New Capital		Means of cultivation yet to be discovered			
		Area	Percentage of total area	area	% of total area	area	% of total area	area	% of total area	area	% of total area
Europe (excluding Russia) ..	4.9	1.5	31%	0.5	10%	0.9	18%	1.5	31%	4.4	90%
Russia ..	22.4	2.2	10%	1.8	8%	4.1	18%	6.9	31%	15.0	67%
Asia (excluding Russia) ..	27.0	4.1	15%	2.9	11%	6.1	23%	7.1	26%	20.2	75%
Africa ..	30.2	2.4	8%	2.6	9%	7.4	24%	9.5	31%	21.9	72%
USA and Canada ..	18.5	2.3	12%	2.2	11%	2.9	15%	4.4	23%	11.8	61%
Central & South America ..	20.4	1.0	5%	3.0	15%	5.1	25%	6.0	29%	15.1	73%
Oceana ..	8.6	0.3	3%	0.5	6%	1.7	20%	3.0	35%	5.5	64%
World as a whole	135.0	13.2	10%	13.5	10%	28.2	21%	38.4	28%	93.9	70%

That means that 0% of the land lying unused may be brought under plough to increase food production.

(2) At the moment 13.2 million square kilometers is under cultivation and additional 13.5 million kilometers may be brought under plough *by utilizing the existing agricultural facilities*. After this, with the *investment of new capital* and the implements and equipment *that have already been discovered* and are *being actually used in the Western countries* would add 28.2 million kilometers to the cultviated area which makes it 21% of total land area. And then 38.4 million kilometers of the remaining land (*i.e.* 28 per cent of the total area) is expected to be utilized after further research in agriculture and the discovery of means and appliances which are fast coming to light.

All this demonstrates how tremendous are the potentialities for further production.

Then there are vast possibilities of increasing per acre production. This is evident from the figures of per acre production in various countries. In comparison to Pakistan, Japan's per acre production is three times higher, and in Holland it is four times more. And then, in advanced countries, two, three, and even four crops are obtained each year from the same land. Moreover, modern research and experiments show that production can be increased to an unbelievable extent.

A perusal of Table 7.4 will give an idea of per acre production in various countries :

TABLE 7·4

Showing wheat production in various countries.[161]

Country		Production per acre (Metric Tons) 1934-38	1956
Denmark	.	1.23	1.63
Holland	..	1.23	1.45
England	..	0.94	1.26
Egypt	..	0.81	0.95
Japan	..	0.76	0.85
Pakistan	..	0.34	0.30
India	..	0.24	3.29

These figures show that the developing countries can increase their per acre production three or four times more than what it is at present. The Western countries themselves were able to increase their per acre production very considerably during the last 30 years. England has registered a 20 per cent increase in production during this period.

If we study the figures about food production for the last twenty-five years we are presented with an entirely new phenomenon, the one never visualized by Malthus. These statistics reveal that in comparison to the rise in population, farm production has been much greater. Dudley Stamp has given the following figures for the last 25 years.

161. Stamp, Dudley, *Our Developing World*, p. 73.

TABLE 7.5

Index of Farm production and Population growth during the last 25 years.[162]

	1934-38	1948-52	1957-58
All Farm Products ..	85	100	117
Population ..	90	100	112.2

The table shows that food production was higher than population rise. Professor Dudley Stamp says :

> "If the 'index of all farm products' can be relied upon, it suggests that present food supplies are increasing more rapidly than population."[163]

This trend in food production is further testified by several U. N. studies. Statistics released by the Food and Agricultural Organization state that the index for food production was 94 in the year 1952-53, and it increased to 113 in 1958-59. If we take into consideration the increase of the population during the period the per capita index of production comes as follows :[164]

TABLE 7.6

Food Production (Per capita)

	1952-53	1958-59
Food ..	97	106
Overall argricultural produce ..	97	105

162. Stamp, Dudley, *Our Developing World*, p. 71.

163. *Ibid.*, p. 70.

164. *Production Yearbook*, Food and Agricultural Organization, United Nations, Rome, Vol. 13, 1959, pp. 27-28.

Similarly a survey of food production of different countries taken separately, reveals the following rate of development in these countries : [165]

TABLE 7.7

Index of Food Production

Country	1952-53	1958-59
Austria	91	121
Greece ..	81	120
England ..	95	105
America ..	98	112
Brazil ..	89	119
Mexico ..	87	123
India ..	90	104
Japan ..	97	119
Occupied Palestine ('Israel') ..	82	130
Tunis ..	95	137
United Arab Republic ..	86	111
Australia ..	98	120

In all of these countries production of food has been faster than the rise in population ; and this is the general trend observable through the world.

In view of all available evidence, a sizable body of economists, agronomists and other experts holds that there is no danger whatsoever of encountering any scarcity of food or of economic resources, in the near future or even in the distant future. Professor J. D.

165. *Production Yearbook*, Food and Agricultural Organisation, United Nations, Rome, Vol. 13, 1959, p. 29.

Bernal holds :

> "Thus in about a century from now it (the population) will be some two or three times its present members, that is, estimates range from six thousand to twelve thousand million souls in the second part of the twenty-first century. Now it is also estimated that without unduly straining present agricultural methods, that is, by employing everywhere the kind of agricultural methods suitable to the region but on the same technical level as those employed in the under-industrialized countries, it should be possible to provide adequate food for such a population. In other words, there is no intrinsic need of famine in the next century, and if famine comes it will be due entirely to some people's stupidity or greediness."[166]

The F.A.O. in its ten-year report (1945—55) after making a survey of the conditions prevailing over the entire world, comes to the conclusion :

> "Today agriculture has other tools for increasing production without having to rely on new acres by the millions. Also the newer forms of power for industry—— oil and, still more, atomic energy——mean that industry can be located where the people are, not *vice versa.* Moreover there are nations standing by who have already modernised themselves and who can lend their skills and experience for the job. All these things give solid ground for believing that during that next 100 years there could happen in the remaining two-thirds of the world what hitherto has happened in only one-third .. what is almost within human grasp is nothing less than the abolition of primary poverty in the last strongholds of

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166. Bernal, *World Without War* ; *op. cit.*, p. 66.

> poverty, the bringing of low income peoples, not to equality of income with the wealthiest peoples, but to hailing distance, so there is no longer a wide social and material gap between them."[167]

About the possible increase in food production the author of the report, Dr. Lamartine Yates observes :

> "It would seem probable that the cumulative effects of what is being done through this programme will ultimately surpass the prophecies of the most extreme optimists."[168]

In another report of F.A.O. the following remarks have been made :

> "Much of the confusion evident in discussing food and population, agriculture and industry, has its origin in our incomplete knowledge of present and potential resources. Sometimes it even seems as if agricultural lands were looked on as exhaustible——like a coal mine. Indeed they can be exhausted by ill-treatment and lack of foresight, but they are also renewable and can be increased. Pessimistic beliefs are common that the limits of cultivable land have been reached. The experts do not share this view."[169]

The well-known agricultural economist, Colin Clark, claims on the basis of irrefutable evidence that if the resources of the world are properly utilized (as is done in Holland) and just the existing agricultural techniques

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167. Yates, Dr. Lamartine, *So Bold an Aim : Ten Years of International Co-operation towards Freedom from Want*, F.A.O., 1956, p. 9.

168. *Ibid.*, 130.

169. *Agriculture in the World Economy*, F.A.O., Rome, 1955, p. 35.

and methods are utilized, it should be possible to support ten times the present world population (*i.e.* 28 billion) and provide them a standard of diet as good as that of Western countries, and there shall be no problem of access in population.[170]

(*c*) Pakistan's Resources and Population Problem

As regards Pakistan, it could be said without any fear of contradiction that economic problems that confronts us are more a product of our own mistakes and shortsighted policies and less of the niggardliness of nature. But it is not possible to delineate on that problem in these pages. Nevertheless what we would like to stress is that from a purely economic point of view our population and its further growth is not a thing to be afraid of. We would like to place some food for thought in this respect :

(*i*) To begin with distinction between developed and developing economies must be made. A study of the history of last two hundred years reveals that there has been an extraordinary increase in population in the formative stages, and this increase contributed tremendously towards building up the economic and political strength of these countries. The stagnation and a decrease in population began after the economic stability was achieved, and not before that.

Professor F. K. Organski of Brooklyn College says :

"Immense population growth, unplanned and

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170. Clark, Colin, "Population Growth and Living Standards", *op. cit.*, Also see : *Time*, January 11, 1960, p. 18 ; and reports of the speeches of Lord Brabazon and Lord Hailshem in *British Medical Journal*, London, July 8, 1961, pp. 119-20.

> uncontrolled, was crucial in making Europeans first in power in the world. Europe's population explosion provided the working hands to run the new industrial economies at home, the migrants to create European allies outside Europe, and the administrators and soldiers to run far-flung empires that encompassed half the world's area and one-third of its population."[171]

Professor Colin Clark expresses the view that :

> "There are a great many industries which are specifically benefited by increasing population."[172]

Professor Thompson, a supporter of birth control, admits this historical fact :

> "The first effect of the increase in man's productive power was to encourage an extremely rapid increase in the population of European origin... For more than a century this growth was almost uninterrupted."[173]

Thus, we would submit that the problems of a *developing* economy should not be studied in the light of the peculiar circumstances and conditions obtaining in a developed country. In a developing economy the conditions are so ordained that population should rise at a relatively fast rate and production may rise and should rise many times faster. This is also supported

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171. Organski, Prof. Abeamo F. K., article published in *Science*, Journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and extracts produced by Stuart H. Loory in an article "Population Explosion" in *Dawn*, Karachi, July 17, 1961.

172. Clark, *Population Growth and Living Standards*, *op. cit.*

173. Thompson, *Population Problems*, *op. cit.*, p. 83.

by a case-study of the developing phases of the industrialised countries of the world.

While the rising population *can* be of great value to a developed country, for a developing economy *it is indispensable*. There is no question of its being an economic burden, only if their economy is properly managed and handled.

(*i*) In an agricultural economy, any addition in the family members is hailed as something of great importance and economic significance. Arm-chair economists sometimes fail to appreciate this situation which cannot be discerned merely by an exercise in statistical manipulations. Those who are aware of the conditions obtaining in agriculture know that an addition to an agriculturist family is a blessing from the economic viewpoint. On the contrary it is deemed to be a misfortune for an agriculturist family to have few children and then obtain additional labour from outside. This is being increasingly realised by some sociologists. Professor Egon Ernest Bergel, for example sums up the whole situation in these words :

> "Children are an economic asset for the farmer and an economic liability for city people. The poorer the farmer the less he can afford to be without children. There is no problem in finding room and food for another child. There is no problem of rearing children ; the farm is the only place where a woman can work and at the same time take care of a nursling "[174]

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174. Bergel, Egon Ernest, *Urban Sociology*, McGraw Hill Inc., New York, 1955, p. 292.

Professor Arnold Green expresses the same thing in a different way :

> "In the old rural-familistic system, the child served well three predominant interests of the father : he would soon work on the farm, or, during the earlier days of the industrial revolution, in the factory——become an economic asset to the father, in other words ; he would provide economic security in the father's old age ; and finally, he would provide psychological security by preserving the family name..."[175]

In Pakistan 75% of population belongs to agriculture, and it is indeed unthinkable that our developing country can afford any decrease in its agricultural population. To try to solve our country's problem in the light of urban conditions prevailing in large areas of Western countries is anything but a healthy attitude of mind.[176]

(*iii*) According to the census-figures for 1961, the population of our country is 93,801,556 and the average density of population in the entire country is 256 persons per square mile. But because in East Pakistan the pressure of population is comparatively high, there is quite a difference in the density of

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175. Arnold Green, article *op. cit.*, *A Modern Introduction to the Family*, p. 566.

176. In fact in West Pakistan in particular there is a dearth of agricultural labour and with the spread of industrialisation and the consequent movement of population, educated as well as unskilled, away from agriculture, the problem of labour shortage is becoming more and more acute.

population in both the wings. In East Pakistan it is 992 per square mile and in West Pakistan 138. If this situation is compared with that of the other countries of the world, it becomes evident that there is scarcity of population in West Pakistan, and no extraordinary situation prevails in the whole of the country. As already stated England has a density of 853 persons per square mile. In Holland about a thousand persons per square mile live with a very high standard of living, and in Japan if we take into consideration only the cultivable areas (only 17% of its land is utilizable), 3000 persons live per square mile.

The following is the density per square mile of some countries in relation to cultivable area available :

America	..	293
Sweden	..	489
France	...	511
India	...	786
Italy	..	936
Belgium	...	2155
Holland	...	2395
Switzerland	...	2406
Japan	..	3575

This can give some idea as to the scope that exists for providing ample accommodation to an increasing population provided we develop our economy properly. The answer to the problem is not birth control, but

proper economic development. If Holland has a density four times greater than ours and Japan has five times more persons per square mile than we have, what cause is there to worry. All our worries should be directed towards expanding the economy and making the best possible use of the talent we have and not of nipping many a flower in the bud.

(*iv*) Only 26% of the area available in Pakistan is under cultivation and 13% additional land may be brought under plough if only we use the existing methods of cultivation (which are, by the way, very primitive, with a ridiculous figure of yield per acre as compared to advanced countries). We have 24% of land of which no survey has yet been made. It is estimated that of this 24% a larger part could be used for agricultural purposes by a little effort. It is, therefore, evident in addition to the land already under cultivation, another 50 could be added in the future. Who then says we are short of land ?

(*v*) If we take into consideration yield per acre, we are far behind the other countries of the world. If we improve our agricultural methods, production can increase manifold. The per acre production of wheat in Denmark and Holland is five times more than that in our country. It is four times higher in England and Germany and three times in Japan and Egypt.

Our comparative position with regard to per acre production of wheat and rice is as follows :[177]

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177. Stamp, Dudley *op. cit.*, pp. 71-76.

TABLE 7.8

Wheat (1956) Country	Per acre Production (in metric tons)	Rice (1956) Country	Per acre Production (in metric tons)
Denmark	1.63	Spain	2.35
Holland	1.45	Italy	1.90
Belgium	1.28	Australia	2.14
England	1.26	Egypt	2.20
Egypt	0.95	Japan	1.70
Pakistan	0.30	Pakistan	0.61
Japan	0.85		

After all why can't we bring our own production up to the level achieved by others, which they are trying to go further ahead.

• SNU is an international method for estimating productivity of a country. This makes comparisons easier. After making a comparative study of the world through this method, Dudley Stamp remarks :

> "If the Japanese are able to produce 6 to 7 SNU per acre of cultivated land, equivalent to about 4,000 SNU per square mile, we may say that the cultivated land can support a population density of about 4,000 per square mile."[178]

178. Dudley Stamp, *op. cit.*, p. 120.

(*vi*) Finally, we have to consider commerce and industry through which a nation can rise to higher levels of economic activity and progress. Unfortunately man forgets that God and not he is the nourisher of all living organisms. Man's efforts and endeavours towards earning his livelihood are most justified, but he operates in a wider framework and that is given by nature. If we consider with an open mind all relevant economic facts we must realise that there is no reasonable ground to resort to an arbitrary policy of birth control. Malthusians and neo-Malthusians present only one side of the picture, conceal many an aspect, exaggerate many others and present their viewpoint in a manner that smacks of universal acceptability. But that is not a fact. There is a contesting viewpoint as well and it has not been met on the plane of facts and arguments. That is why Colin Clark regards many Malthusians as 'propagandists' and suffering from anti-religious preconceptions and makes this strong statement against them :

> "Their point of view, they say, is purely scientific. If that is so there cannot be any group of scientists so ill-informed on the facts with which they are supposed to deal. Many Malthusians have no knowledge of the simple fact about population ; and those who do know some demography seem to be almost universally uninformed on economics."[179]

If in spite of all the facts stated above a person wants to remain under the delusion that the living space on earth is short and that the food is too limited to

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179. Clark, Colin, *Population Growth and Living Standards*, *op. cit.*, p. 100.

support a rising population he can hardly be helped Man's duty is to think and act keeping himself within the domain prescribed for him and should avoid indulging in speculations that are futile and beyond his ken.

III

The Problem of Death and Pain

The protagonists of birth control admit that nature looks after the number of non-human species and keeps them within proper limits ; and that this provision, in a way, holds equally good for human beings. But they argue that nature serves this purpose through bringing death and destruction. And since death entails great psycho-physical pain and torture why should we not take the preventive measures to keep our population within suitable limits ? It should be much more preferable to check births than to allow man to suffer the pangs of death and make the near and dear of those dying suffer unnecessarily.

This, again, is an intrusion in a field beyond man's domain. Good hopes ! But death does not lie in man's power. It remains unconquered despite all progress in the medical science over millenniums. Can precautionary measures in this regard solve the problem in any way ? What control man has over earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, rail or motor accidents, fatal diseases, epidemics, the outbreak of wars——and all that they bring in their wake. Has man really done away with death ? If not, has he entered into some sort of alliance with God (or what they call "nature") that all other ways of taking away man's life will remain suspended so long a nation

is practising birth control ? Have they ever realised what fate awaits human race when on the one hand man himself is bent upon putting a stop to further procreation and on the other hand, death goes on taking its heavy toll through natural calamities, through man's ingenuities to kill his own kith and employ science and technology for these destructive errands. And this is over and above the normal death rate from which there seems to be no escape. Is it strange that these people cannot make such simple calculations : If there is a perpetual decrease in numbers without provision for proper addition, what consequence would follow. Europe (except Russia) alone suffered a loss of population to the extent of 24.2 million during the World War I (this includes loss of armed men, above-normal death toll of the civilians and birth deficit).[180] The loss of births in Soviet Russia alone from war and revolution, is placed at 10 million. Germany's loss due to First War is estimated at 10.8 million.[181] Second World War took a heavier toll of death. Comparing the total direct casualties during the two wars we find that the estimated number of dead increased from 9.7 to 54.8 million and of wounded from 2.1 to 35.0 million persons.[182] In Germany the number of military deaths increased by about half but the number of civilian deaths by more than four times. While referring to the

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180. Notestein, Frank W., *The Future Population of Europe and the Soviet Union*, League of Nations, Geneva, 1944, p. 75.

181. Landis, *Social Problems, op. cit.*, p. 677.

182. German Federal Government, Press Information Office, *Germany Reports*, Wiesbaden, 1953, pp. 101-103.

demographic implications of this situation, Paterson says that "The millions who were killed as the direct consequence of political conflict also suggest that a classification of 'causes of war' restricted in the main to biological factors is markedly incomplete."[183] Consequences of war on population in the modern times deserve to be studied more penetratingly. Landis astutely observes that "now as throughout history, war reduces numbers, not only on the battlefront, but at home, not only in the warring generations, but in the generations that follow".[184]

Similarly famines are not merely a thing of antiquity : they are a contemporary problem. In 1920-21 alone, 500,000 persons died in China, and in 1940-43, one million persons died, due to famine and flood and another 5 million persons were affected adversely. In 1943-44 Greece was threatened with extinction due to famine. Epidemics also continue to take a heavy toll of death. In U.S.A. 500,000 persons died due to Influenza in 1918-19 and 15 million died in India. One seventh of the entire population of Tahiti was swept to death because of the epidemic. In the developed countries of the world deaths caused by venereal diseases are greater than those caused by wars. Is this conquest of death ? And if this is not so, would we not be burning our candle at both ends but on the one hand facing decline in population due to those natural causes, and on the other, by resort to birth control ? Even if we

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183. Paterson, William, *Population*, Macmillans, New York, 1961, p. 587.

184. Landis, *op. cit.*, pp. 678-9.

leave aside all other considerations in this respect, the crucial question is : What is a reasonable limit for the population of a nation ? What is the standard of measure for fixing any "reasonable limit". And even if there is, does it really lie in the power of man to produce up to that limit only and to put a stop to procreation beyond what is so needed ? In this connection a very important aspect of the question is generally ignored. Once the people develop a selfish mentality and feed that they are free to determine the necessity or otherwise of the number of children in the light or personal circumstances, selfish motives, and whims and wishes, particularly when the artificial means of contraception are within easy reach of everyone, will it really be possible to keep the population limited only to a certain limit and not allow it to go lower. This is not an idle speculation but the evidence from the experience of pioneers of birth control speak volumes. The most advanced countries of the West have not been successful in fixing any "reasonable limit" and maintaining it by putting a check on the behaviour of individuals to keep them within the bounds of those limits. This is an aspect of meddling with 'God's scheme of creation' and by doing so man cannot but falter.

IV

An Economic Pretext

It is argued that the parents with limited income cannot provide to a larger number of children a good standard of education, a better social environment, and

a good start in life. When the number of children outstrips the economic capacity of parents or where children are born to poor parents, their standard of living is adversely affected. They get poor education ; their training and upbringing suffer with handicaps ; malnutrition, inadequate housing facilities, wretched and shabby dress—hat becomes their fate. Everything goes from bad to worse, and future holds no promise for them. Under such circumstances, it is argued, will it not be advisable that instead of multiplying the numbers, that are good for nothing, resort is made to measures of birth control to limit the number of children according to the means available with the parents, and stop procreation when the circumstances of life are adverse. This, they suggest, is the best road to individual prosperity, social welfare and general good.

This argument has quite an appeal for certain people and seems to possess some force in it. But this too, as the other two discussed above, is devoid of all substance. First of all "good education", "worthy social status" and "good start" are terms that are vague, signifying nothing concrete. Everybody may have his own concept of these things. The general tendency is to ignore one's own circumstances, means and conditions of life, to look to problem by fixing one's eyes on the living standards of others and then attempt to 'catch up'. A kind of demonstration effect is in operation and no realistic decision making takes place. One who has such false standards before him for providing 'better education', 'social status' and 'better start in life' would not like to have more than one or two children ; and in

certain circumstances no child at all. The reason is obvious. People, under the influence of wishful thinking, set aims and ideals that are beyond their means. There emerges a craze for higher standards without visualising the problems it involves. Such standards often remain unfulfilled as they are based more on wishful dreams than on real facts. In the Western society there are tens of thousands of couples who prefer to go without children simply because they hold such high flung ideas about the type of education and the standard of living of their children, better social life, and better start in life as they can never realize in their lives.

In principle too, the above approach is wrong. It is detrimental to the progress of nations that their younger generations rear up in an atmosphere of ease and luxury and abundance of worldly wealth, and that they don't face problems and difficulties, want and deprivation, and need for any effort and struggle. All these things provide a wonderful training course for shaping human personality and moulding his character in the best folds so that he may live a full life. Thus fortitude, forbearance, perseverance, courage and best of the traits of character are developed that are of immense value in the later years of life. Indeed, no school or college can impart training in these things and no one can learn them only by living through a rich family life and by facing the problems of life squarely.

"And surely We shall try you with something of fear and hunger and loss of wealth and lives

> and crop: and give glad tidings to the steadfast.[185]

This is a wonderful process that distinguishes the grain from the chaff and through it all undesirable traits get reformed. Here man is confronted with misfortunes so that he may face them like a man. Troubles come in order to arouse him to greater struggle to overcome them. Hardships wash away man's weaknesses, and his latent capacities are put to work and given chance for expression and development. Every trial unfolds an opportunity and provides an excellent training process. Those who pass through it with fortitude are able to achieve anything worthwhile in this world. Such are the people who are the salt of the earth and whatever has ever been accomplished has been done by such persons. And it only comforts and luxuries become the supreme most ideal of man and if man is able to turn this world into an abode of lust and luxury, the future generations would contain a crop of cowards, of men without courage of conviction, who shirk duty, and avoid responsibility and are addicted to comfort and luxury. The desire that the children be born with a silver spoon in their mouth, should be educated in top most institutions, live in luxurious apartments while getting education, and when they enter life they should have a 'good start' pre-assured, is highly unrealistic. It is a mistaken view that such is the road to progress. But the fact remains that with all such educational facilities we could produce at best third rate "animals"

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185. *Al-Qur'an*, 2 : 156.

masquerading as man, or at the most men of second class caliber. We will lack men who can guide the ages. In history quite a large number of really great men—— about 90 per cent of them were born of poor parents and faced all the handicaps in childhood, in adolescence and in youth. They were thrown to face troubles. They learnt everything through thick and thin of life. The vicissitudes of their lives were their best teachers. They were taught in the school of adversity. And then, ultimately, they grew to become a torch of guidance to others.

V

Some More Arguments

These were the three main arguments of the advocates of birth control. There are the three more arguments but they are not so important and as such we will deal with them only briefly.

(*a*) It is argued that birth control can raise the racial stock of the people. Men who are more healthy, able-bodied, and possess greater capability to work should breed as against the incapacitated ones. This argument seems to be based on the assumption that if only one or two children will be born they shall be of sharper intellect and abilities, and when many children will be born all of them will be weak, sick, useless and stupid. But this supposition is absolutely baseless and is proved neither by experience nor by experiment. It is a smug supposition and there are innumerable instances which belie it. In fact no generalisation can be made with regard to man's birth. This is something

about which man cannot say anything. The quality and character traits are a part of God's creation of which we know but little.

> "He it is Who fashioneth you in the wombs as pleaseth Him."[186]

It is indeed out of man's powers to bring into this world only healthy and strong ; intelligent and wise children, and not to allow weak disease-ridden and intellectually impaired children to see the light of the day.

(*b*) As a corollary to the above argument this is also said that birth control saves us from the useless task of bringing in children and rearing them up who are not needed in the world, and whose lot cannot at all be improved, or who are sure to die before they attain youth. There could have been some justification for these ideas if man could possess means to claim *prior knowledge* about a child——his character, traits, mental faculties and abilities, his life-span, his usefulness or otherwise for the society. And when this is beyond human grasp and completely hidden from him, is it not sheer folly to form any opinion on the basis of such baseless conjecture.

(*c*) This is also suggested that bearing many children ruins a woman's health. Her form and beauty are adversely affected. But we have seen in the preceding pages that artificial measures for birth control too are not without harm. These too are detrimental for health as rearing too many children might be. Medically no

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186. *Al-Qur'an*, 3 : 6.

such rule can be formulated which could determine how many children a woman could give birth to. This entirely depends upon the personal circumstances of every woman. If any dependable medical expert suggests to a particular woman, on the basis of the facts of her individual case, that the conception and the complications involved in confinement might endanger her life, some suitable method for birth control with due consultation of the doctors might be adopted. And in such circumstances even if abortion is considered necessary in order to save the life of the mother, this measure too is not forbidden. But on the pretext of health, an indiscriminate resort to birth control on a vast scale and making it a normal feature and a national policy cannot be justified. Islam would allow its judicious use in particular cases, but by any stretch of imagination this cannot be extended to turn into a general social policy.

A perusal of the arguments of the advocates of birth control clearly show that this movement is the offspring of a secular and sensate culture. In fact this movement has mostly been initiated and encouraged by those who were not prepared to acknowledge the sovereignty of One God and would not allow the Divine Guidance to regulate all affairs of their life. They hold that God does not exist and if He exists, it is no part of His business to regulate the world of human affairs and be its effective ruler and law-giver. Man himself is the ruler of his fate and architect of his destiny. Such are the people for whom birth control holds greatest attraction. Once we realize this it

becomes crystal clear that basically this movement is against Islam. It is opposed to Islam root and branch. The basic attitudes, tenets and values of the two are anti-thetical. Islam's foremost object is to mitigate the mentality that gives rise to the movement of birth control, feeds it and propels its wheels. An Islamic society can never allow such a movement to take roots in it and destroy what Islam wants to build.

Chapter 8

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

1. We have been trying to understand the problem of birth control in all its ramifications. Our approach has been unorthodox in more than one way. We have not blindly endorsed the popular view. Rather, we have taken a radically different stand and are not prepared to throw ourselves to the mercy of the currents of time. We have also not followed the line usually taken by the men of religion, who confine themselves to pronouncing *fatwas* (verdict) and do not approach the problem from sociological, cultural and economic viewpoints. The approach we prefer, and which, we suggest, is most in keeping with the demands of inquiry and research, and should be adopted by all keen students of the problem is this : We should first of all try to understand the nature of the problem ? Causes of its rise ? Factors responsible for its growth and development ? The nature of its relationship with various aspects of our lives and the results produced by its adoption. We have also to see whether there is any distinction between resorting to it in individual case and its adoption as a social movement and a national policy. If there is any difference between the two what is its nature, and also what would be the injunctions of Islam in respect of each, keeping of course, the difference in view. It is only through this systematic and logical study of the problem that we can fully grasp the worth

and significance of the teachings of the natural religion—Islam. This is the approach we have tried to adopt and now we are in a position to sum up the viewpoint we have tried to present.

Nature of the Problem

2. "Family Planning" is indeed not a new concept but rather a new name for an old idea. Man in various periods of history has looked with apprehension upon the limitless possibilities of growth in population as compared to the possibilities of limited expansion in the supply of resources available. This fear has time and again been expressed that if the human progeny multiplies unrestrictedly where would they all live and what would they eat. Formerly this fear was expressed in a simple form but modern prophets of doom have tried to explain the matter statistically, in terms more horrifying and breath-taking. Some of them plead that while population rises in geometrical progression, our means of livelihood no matter what methods are used, could only rise in arithmetic progression. In other words while population increased in the proportion of 1-2-4-8-16-32-64-128-256, the means of subsistence could be developed only in the proportion of 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9. It, therefore, follows that if human population is allowed to rise unhampered, it would go on doubling itself after every 25 years, and within a period of two hundred years only it would increase from 1 to 256, and the resources for living could be developed to 9. Within three centuries the proportion of population and resources would be 4096 : 13, and after two thousand

years all proportion would be lost. On the basis of these simple calculations various people, some engaging themselves to problems on the international plane and others confining themselves within those of their nation, express their great concern that if population of the world or of any specific area goes on increasing at this rate, no amount of human effort would be able to accomplish a corresponding rise in means of livelihood. The consequences shall be that progress and development would become an idle dream, it would be difficult to maintain life as it is, and a time would come when there would be simply no room to exist.

This then is the nature of the problem. Man, in the bygone, resorted to infanticide, abortion, and contraceptive measures. The modern man, although doesn't feel hesitant to utilize the first two methods as well, but equipped with the latest scientific discoveries and techniques is devoting more of his attention and energy to the third method. He wants to make use of such drugs and appliances that may keep him virile yet be able to control or stop births as and when he deems fit. He is even prepared to use those devices that may make man or woman or both permanently sterile. This, he sometimes calls, birth control, sometimes birth limitation, and sometimes uses a term like family planning and such other attractive names.

Fear of Economic Scarcity

3. This is the problem that is posed before us. But how far is it real ? On careful study and scrutiny it becomes clear that in the long course of human history,

never did the human race multiply according to geometric progression as was claimed by the disciples of Malthus and Francis Place. Had it been so, human race would have been extinct long ago, leaving neither any problem for discussion nor the persons who would indulge in it !

4. There are certain things that are just taken for granted. We assume their existence and seldom feel the necessity of pondering over them and trying to appreciate their purpose and significance. Take for example our earth. It existed long before man was born. It contained all that was needed to support life on it and for the blossoming of human civilization in it. Man's contribution in this regard is simply negligible. He did not create anything at all ; he only utilized to his own advantage what already existed. He, of course, by dint of his intellectual powers and physical endeavours did discover hidden treasures of nature and put them to man's use. All the resources which were needed to satisfy the necessities of the earliest settlers on the earth down to the varied and complex demands of the consumers in the present century have already been in existence. Perhaps, no one would doubt the fact that the resources needed to meet the future demands and requirements of human beings also exist here, may that be on the surface of the earth or within the stratas deep down its bosom, in the air and the atmosphere or in the oceans deep. Man has neither *created* them nor he has the authority to *determine* the place and the locality, quantity and the quality, and period of time for its

availability. We are at the receiving end, not the otherwise. However we may emphasise the role of man in *discovery* and *utilising* these resources, the fact remains that he never *created* them. One may believe in God or just in the blind force called nature, he must come to the inescapable conclusion that whoever is responsible for bringing man upon this earth, He made provisions for all that man was to require in a manner and measures most judicious and appropriate.

It may also be pointed out that all these means and resources have not always been *known* to man. In the beginning man was aware only of water, earth, stones, natural plants and wild animals, and he could not think of other economic resources than these. But as population grew he struggled and endeavoured and by and by new and novel resources were discovered. The process continues in its gushing fury and seems unending and inexhaustible. He searched newer resources and at the same time he developed new methods and techniques for their utilization. Never in the whole span of human history there ever came a moment when human population continued to rise and the means of livelihood remained totally static. Man has time and again blundered in his assumptions and apprehensions ; he has often thought that the earth has poured out all that it had and henceforth mankind has no new stores of resources to sustain his life. But every time the fear proved unwarranted and man found out that the world has yet to offer new and unexplored avenues to him With the rising population many hitherto unknown resources have always been discovered which were

formerly inconceivable. A few instances will elucidate the point.

For thousands of years before Christ (peace be upon him) man had been observing the steam coming out of his kettle when it was heated. But for more than seventeen hundred years after Jesus, no one had the least idea that in the later half of the eighteenth century the same steam was going to open innumerable vistas for obtaining energy and this discovery will give rise to a train of developments of a revolutionary nature' Eversince the time of the Sumerian civilization, man knew about oil and its inflammable property, but till the later half of the nineteenth century no one had thought that petrol was about to gush out from earth's bowels, and with it motor transport, aeroplanes and allied industries will bring about an economic revolution. Since time immemorial man was looking at the sparks of fire produced when two materials were rubbed with each other, but after thousands of years the secret of electricity was revealed to him, at a particular stage of history, and he became master of a new source of energy that is rendering such a tremendous service towards the economic well-being of humanity, something it was not possible to visualize hundred and fifty years back. And also look to atom, which was a subject matter of discussion long before Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) was born, and the philosophers of the times were always giving their best thought to the proposition whether or not atom could be sub-divided still further. Who knew that this insignificant thing would burst and release such tremendous energy which would render all

other sources insignificant. These instances refer to some of the changes that have occurred in the economic sphere within a period of last two hundred years. They have provided man with such amenities and comforts, and have equipped him with such means of livelihood, that were undreamt of in the eighteenth century. How stupid it should have been for a person to have his eyes on the economic resources of just his own period, and calculated on that basis that the existing resources shall not be all to the growing demand of our increasing population.

5. Those who calculate in this fashion not only commit the mistake of regarding the limited knowledge of their own age as adequate for thinking and planning about future but they also forget the basic fact that increase in population does not signify merely an increase in consumers but also in producers. Economics recognizes three factors of production ; land, capital and labour. The main and decisive factor among these is man himself, but those scared growth in population find it convenient to regard man as a source of consumption and not so much as a factor of production. They, quite often ignore the fact that man produces, and can produce tremendously. They fail to grasp that all the progress achieved so far by man has been despite the simultaneous growth in population, and quite often as a result of this growth. Rise in population means increase in the number of producers. It also provides greater inducements to work. Increase in population not only opens newer vistas for action but also provides freely impetus for greater effort. The growing

requirements for food, clothing, housing, and other necessities of life for more and more men, is indeed the compelling urge that prompts him to expand the existing. resources and infuse spirit in him for making discoveries and inventions and innovations in every walk of life. This urge is responsible for exploitation of barren lands, reclamation of marshes, forests and ocean beds, utilization of improved methods of cultivation, search for mineral resources, and human endeavours on earth, air and sea. Indeed human activities and endeavours know no limits, primarily because of one factor : he wants more and more resources for living under the pressure of growing population. If this motivating force dies down all activity and dynamism of human spirit will give place to lethargy, laziness and dependence on whatever is available. It is this motivation indeed that prompts man on the one hand to work more and more and on the other, to bring forth newer and newer workers

The Phantom of Scarcity

6. It has been alleged that rise in population must necessarily result in the scarcity of economic resources. But the evidence and the disposal of man, despite the limitations of our knowledge and immeasurability of the hitherto hidden resources, proves the otherwise. History of our recent past is enough to belie the assumption that means of livelihood cannot keep pace with rise in population.

In 1880, the population of Germany was 45 million, and du: to the paucity of means of livelihood a near-

starvation stage had been reached in certain parts of the country with the result that thousands of Germans were leaving their homeland. But then within the next 34 years, although the German population rose up to 68 million, as a result of economic transformation of the society, instead of any decrease in the economic position, their production multiplied manifold, and in certain cases hundredfold. Consequently it suffered from dearth in manpower and in order to keep their economic machinery running they encouraged immigrants from foreign countries. By 1900, there were .8 million foreigners working in Germany and in 1910 the figure rose to 1.3 million.

Phenomenal progress has occurred in West Germany after World War II. In addition to the natural rise in population, about 12.5 million refugees from East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and other Communist dominated countries have migrated to it and their number is increasing every day. The total area of the country is only 95 thousand square miles and its population has shot up to over 52 million, one man out of every five being a refugee. A large number of people, over 6.5 million is getting pension because they are old or disabled. In spite of all this, West Germany is taking long strides along the road to economic growth and prosperity. Its national income is now greater than the national income of United Germany of pre-War era. Germany has no problem of excess population, rather, it is facing shortage of labour and hundreds of thousands of workers are pouring in it from adjoining countries.

Take the case of Holland. In the eighteenth century

its population was hardly one million. By 1950, the country showed remarkable progress and development ; and within 150 years its population rose to 10 million. This huge population is living within an area of 12,850 square miles—the proportion of land per man being less than an acre of cultivable land. However, the people are not only getting all that they require, they even export their surplus food in huge quantities. They have pushed the ocean back and after cleaning the marshes have already reclaimed about two hundred thousand acres of land and are endeavouring to further reclaim an additional three hundred thousand acres. The wealth and well being of these ten million people has no comparison to the shabby state of subsistence in which they found themselves some hundred and fifty years ago when they were only one million.

England furnishes yet another example in this regard. In 1789, the total population of Britain and Ireland was 12 million. But in 1913 it rose to 46 million. And to-day even after the secession of South Ireland, its population is over 52.6 million. And who could claim that this five-fold increase in the British population has in any way made them poorer or that their standard of living has gone any lower.

Lastly, have a look at the situation obtaining in the world as a whole. Whole spectacle it presents ! Since about the end of the eighteenth century, world population registered an extraordinary rise. But up to the present moment, alongwith the rise in population, the economic resources and means of production have increased at much too faster rate. To-day an average

man is enjoying things which about two hundred years back were only the luxuries of the few, and many of which even the Kings and aristocrats could not get. The standard of living that prevailed two hundred years ago stands in no comparison with that obtaining in the present times. If this is so, what is the cause for pessimism ?

Population Rise, Not a Problem

7. The instances given above make it abundantly clear that in order to maintain a proper balance between population and economic resources it would be absolutely wrong to decrease the population or put a stop to its rise. Such attempts, instead of maintaining any equilibrium, may result in further deteriorating the situation. The proper course in this regard is to try to increase means of livelihood and tap newer resources. This is the proper strategy for the future, and whenever it has been followed in the past, not only that obtained a proper balance, but means of subsistence and standards of living rose at a much faster rate as compared to rise in population.

So far we have discussed only those aspects of the question that had a bearing on the economic problem : matters directly related to the inexhaustible resources that the Creator—or, nature, in the terminology of atheists—has provided for mankind. Now we propose to study the population question itself and its growth so that we may correctly comprehend whether or not its planning is possible.

The Real Population Planning

8. Man is not born in this world because of his own will and planning. As the position stands, he has no choice in the matter ; his parents too have but a nominal contribution in the matter. What we know on the basis of scientific studies in our own times shows that in a single intercourse man emits from 220 million to 300 million spermatozoa, while some scientists estimate it to be 500 million. Each one of these spermatozoa is imbued with full potentialities of becoming a human being, provided it is able to fertilize a woman's ovum or egg-cell. Each has the finest blending of the hereditary traits and the individual characteristics of its own, which can shape a distinct personality. On the other hand, ovaries of every adult woman has about four hundred thousand unfertile eggs in them. But out of these, only one egg comes out once in a 28-day cycle, usually 14 days before the onset of menstruation and it remains fully prepared, at the most for 24 hours, to be fertilized by man's spermatozoa for the conception to take place. From the age of 12 to 48, a period of 36 years, a woman's ovaries discharge 430 eggs on an average which could be fertilized. All of those eggs too contain the finest blending of the hereditary traits from the mother's side and the individual characteristics pertaining to that woman, and thus producing a personality quite distinct. Now what happens is that on the occasion of every intercourse tens of millions of spermatozoa race out in search of the egg-cells of woman but either there is no egg-cell available at that time or all the spermatozoa fail to reach it. Similarly at each cycle one egg-cell comes

out of the ovaries of a woman at a particular time and awaits for the spermatozoa at the most for a day and night. But during this period either no intercourse takes place or no spermatozoa is able to reach the egg-cell. Thus dozens of occasions and some time entire life of a couple is passed without a fruitful intercourse. Billions of spermatozoa and hundreds of egg-cells go waste. It is just a particular moment when a spermatozoa could make an egg fertile and the woman can conceive.

This, then, is the system that gives birth to man. Even a cursory glance over this system should be quite enough to show how far our own planning can have any say in it. No mother, no father, no doctor, and no Government can in the least determine as to which of the intercourses of a couple can bear a child. Who possesses the authority and control by which a particular spermatozoa out of the billions a man emits, and only one egg-cell from amongst the hundreds that a woman has ready for the purpose, could be joined with each other and decide as to what sort of a personality to develop out of the combination of the two. Taking decision is a far off matter, a woman even doesn't know when conception actually took place in her womb and what sort of human being she is going to give birth to. She is in complete dark as to his characteristics and traits, his intellectual powers and capabilities. All this is being regulated by One Who is above all and running the entire machinery of birth and creation according to His own plan without the least possibility of any interference from any quarter. And He determines the exact moment of conception. He selects the particular

spermatozoa and the egg-cell who have to be combined. It is He Who decides whether a boy should be born or a girl, or whether he or she should be ugly or pretty, genius or stupid, able-bodied or incapacitated. In the scheme of things the only function man and woman are required to perform is that man and woman meet with each other in fulfilment to their natural desires and thus at best try to initiate the machinery of procreation. Everything else is in the hands of the Creator Himself, Who has bidden them to act as agents in this great plan.

The real planning of human population is being done through this very system of procreation. Should we not reflect on this unique arrangement. On the one hand human male has been endowed with such a tremendous procreative potentiality that the spermatozoa of just one man emitted out on one occasion is enough to produce a population many times larger than that of Pakistan, but on the other, some Authority higher above has so limited this tremendous procreative capacity that since the dawn of life till to-day human race spread all over the world could multiply only up to 3 billion. Let us do some simple calculations. If the offspring of only one couple had been given chance to go on multiplying their race on a natural pace since three thousand years before Christ, and the population had doubled itself after every 30 or 35 years, we would have needed 26 figures to count the number of children produced by just that one couple. The question arises : if human species could multiply at such a terrific rate whose plan if not God's, has kept it under control and within

certain limits. The fact is that He, according to His supreme plan, has brought man into this world and He alone decides how many men at a particular time are needed and with what rate to increase or decrease the progeny of Adam. It is God alone Who decides about every individual, man or woman—what shape or appearance, what abilities and capabilities, what powers and aptitudes, each should be born with. Also, under what circumstances and conditions of life he has to be reared up and what amount of work he has to perform here. God alon decides what type of men should be born in a country, at a particular time. He determines the measure of rise and fall of a people. In fact, our imagination fails to fully grasp His planning, and we are certainly not in a position to block or hinder the operation of any part of His scheme and plan. If we try to poke our nose it is not going to be fruitful because we, with our limitations, are not in a position to fully comprehend even that which seems to be apparent and visible ; much less we could grasp the hidden sides of things, so that we may make some plan after learning all the relevant facts of the case.

All this discussion cannot be dismissed merely as 'an expression of religiosity'. These are solid facts and provide food for thought for all thinking persons. There may be a few who may say ; after all what harm would there be if we plan our population in keeping with our own economic resources, especially when we have enough knowledge and technical ability to exercise control over the rise and fall of the population. We, therefore, propose to deal with this question too and shall try to

refer to some of the consequences that may follow in the wake of any interference in the natural processes of procreation and growth of population,—and what has happened in the countries which took to this kind of bold interference in nature's scheme amply vindicates our point.

Why Family Not Population Planning

9. Whatever is said in support of family planning on economic grounds, on deep reflection, one is bound to feel, does not lend any support to *family* planning but, would logically calls for *population* planning. In other words, the logical demand of their argument is that we should first make an exact calculation of the economic resources and means of livelihood and that in view of these estimates, decide what should be the total desirable population, and also the rate at which newcomers should replace the dead. But such a planning is not at all possible unless the institution of marriage and family are totally done away with and all the men and women are assumed to be a labour force under the thumb of an official Planning Commission which would arrange the 'copulation' of male and female 'labour', according to a fixed programme and plan,—short-period as well as prospective plan,—for production purposes as a part of their official duty, and then order their separation after a desired quota of conception has been reached ; almost on similar lines as production of foods would take place in a completely socialised economy. There may be yet another way to make this total planning a success. All direct intercourse between

men and women may be made unlawful and on the pattern of blood banks, 'semen banks' may be established and, as is done in the case of cows, mares and buffaloes, women too may be impregnated through artificial insemination according to a previously fixed quota. These are the two methods which can logically fulfil the demands of 'population planning'—*family planning* is not the way to that end. There is no other way to keep balance between population and economic resources of a country.

Since man has so far not stooped down to this level and is not prepared to accept this depravity, resort is made to 'family planning' instead of 'population planning' as a sort of compromise. The underlying idea is that the children may be produced in independent small factories called "homes", and the administration of them may continue to be held in the hands of fathers and mothers, but these independent factory-owners may somehow be persuaded to reduce production and conform, as much as they can, to the needs of overall planning.

Paving the Way for Family Planning

10. To achieve the aforesaid object there could only be two methods and both are being employed. First to appeal to the people in the name of their personal interest, and through incessant propaganda overwhelm their minds with the idea that by producing more children they will reduce their own standard of living. It is, therefore, imperative for the future well being of their children and their own comfortable living that

they produce as little as possible. This sort of appeal to their self-interests is essential for the reason that free individuals cannot be induced to voluntarily adopt measures curtailing their personal liberty and discretion for this type of social planning—for the alleged economic purposes of the society. To carry them over, their selfishness is to be played up and an appeal has to be made in the name of their individual comfort.

The other measure is to organise vast publicity to familiarize the people at large with the techniques and methods of birth control and to make the contraceptives—the whole legion of them, available to the common man and suggest to them that men and women may continue to safely enjoy each other without enshouldering the responsibilities that conception entails.

Consequences and Results

11. We shall now briefly sum up the consequences and results that follow the adoption of these two methods in pursuing a national policy of birth control.

(i) *Scarcity of Manpower.* This programme of family planning miserably fails to achieve the objective in view. After all, planning is said to be essential to keep a balance between the economic resources and the population—*i.e.*, keeping in view the resources of the country, the birth rate is so manipulated that a particular standard of population could be maintained. But if a family has to decide for itself how many children to produce they will not and cannot always keep the interest of the country above their own

comfort and standard of living, and exaggeratingly so in a society where sensualism and pleasure-hunt are on the increase and where moral values are giving way to the values of hedonism. Who can guarantee in such a situation that they would necessarily go on producing children exactly in keeping with the requirements of the nation and the country. What can be expected in such a situation, and this is what actually happens, is that quest for personal comforts and unsatiable urge for 'good things of life', will directly result in lesser and lesser children, with the consequence that instead of any increase in population, or the maintenance of population at an even level, there will be a constant downward trend.

That it must happen is not a mere conjecture. The example of France is before us. Of all the countries of the world this was the country which pioneered to make an experiment in birth control on a nationwide scale. The idea of birth control became popular there from the beginning of the nineteenth century, and within a period of one hundred years the birth rate fell markedly below the death rate in most departments of the country. From 1890 to 1911 seven out of these twenty-one years birth rate remained so low that deaths outsripped birth by 1,68,000. In comparison to 1911, the population of France in 1921 was lower by 2.1 million. In 1932 out of 90 departments of France only 12 had a birth rate which was slightly higher than death rate and by 1933 this number was reduced to six only. In other words, in 84 departments out of 90 birth-rate was lower than the death-rate. France suffered heavily for this

folly and the humiliating defeats she suffered in the two World Wars reduced all her grandeur and power of the past. Birth control and decline in population were factors which *inter alia* contributed towards the eclipse of this world power.[187]

Here arises a question that must be faced squarely. Could a country like Pakistan afford to take the risk whose 100 million people find themselves surrounded by a population of 1300 million belonging to four countries with some of whom relations are not cordial, may that be due to our own disputes with them or the ones caused by other international factors and forces.

(ii) Moral Degeneration. An appeal made to the people in the name of their own self-interest and ease and comfort in life, to produce less children shall not remain confined just to that particular aspect only. It must naturally set people thinking that the greater part of their income should be spent over their own needs only. This generates love for ease and luxury. If a feeling is developed that the non-earning members of the family are a burden, a cause of pulling down the standard of living of the earning members, they will most obviously be inclined to regard them as loathsome. If this mentality is allowed to persist it may well be expected that not only their newly born offspring will be regarded as a headache but even the aged parents, orphan brothers and sisters, patients that have no hope

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187. Marshal Petain admitted in his speech on the morrow of French defeat against Hitlerite Germany that lack of manpower was one of the causes of the ignominy France had to suffer.

of any recovery, and such other relatives who are disabled and are not in a position to earn their livelihood. In short, anyone who is forced to depend upon them and thereby bring down their standard to living will become an unbearable burden to them. Quite naturally a person who is not prepared to shoulder the responsibility to bring up his own children cannot be expected to bear the burden of others who after all deserve lesser regard and attention. Thus this movement is bound to corrode the very foundations of our moral life. It will turn them greedy and selfish and will banish from their hearts all sense of sacrifice and dedication, of love and compassion, of sympathy and service

This, too is not a mere theoretical apprehension, but a fact which compels recognition on all hands. The societies wherein this sort of approach was inculcated present a sorry state of affairs, and bear testimony to this apprehension. We know what treatment is being meted out to the old parents in the Western countries, and similarly how they behave with their brothers, sisters and near relatives when misfortune overtakes them.

(*iii*) *Promiscuity and Licentiousness*. With the popularisation of this movement and with bringing its techniques within the easy reach, of every one, who could give the assurance that only married couples would take advantage of it and not the unmarried "friends"? It would, certainly, lead to illegitimate sex relation on a scale unprecedented in the history of our society. Our social conditions are already going from bad to worse. Our educational system is being systematically deprived

of all emphasis for developing moral sense. Cheap amusements, sensuous songs and music, obscene pornographic literature, near-nude pictures have become a common feature of our social scene. Co-education, employment of women in offices, mixed social gatherings, immodest female dresses, beauty parades, are now a common feature of our social life. Legal hindrances have been placed in the way of marriage and on having more than one wife, but no bar against keeping mistresses and having illicit relationships, prior to the age of marriage. In such a society perhaps the last obstacle that may keep a woman from surrendering to a man's advances is fear of an illegitimate conception. Remove this obstacle too and provide assurance to women with weak character that they can safely surrender to their male friends and you will see that the society will be plagued by the tide of moral licentiousness. All the forces that make society a cesspool of corruption are being encouraged and peddled. If we choose to walk along the road to destruction, how could destruction be avoided.

This, again, is what has happened in the West. In whatever country birth control has been practised on a large scale illicit sex relationships have become rampant.

These three are the inescapable consequences of making family planning a popular movement and a national policy.

National Movement or Individual Expedient

12. A clarification, however, is necessary at this

stage. We must distinguish between a national movement of birth control and a limited birth control on individual basis, due to purely personal and specific reasons. The social harms which we have pointed out cannot raise their head and menace the society if birth control is not made a national policy and resort to it is confined to particular circumstances, where a married couple feels the necessity for their personal reasons and a God-fearing *'alim* (scholar), well-versed in Islamic theology after carefully considering his personal circumstances, permit him to use the measures and, further, only if a qualified doctor advises the thing and supervises it. This limited individual birth control is something quite different from a popular movement for family planning where birth control popularised on a vast scale in the general public and for which contraceptives are made available to the common man. In the later case, the consequences pointed out above cannot be checked by any power in the world.

The Islamic Standpoint

13. Now we would like to briefly state what the natural religion of mankind—Islam—has to say on this subject. Generally the protagonists of birth control bring in their support some sayings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) about *coitus interruptus*. But they conveniently forget that this piece of advice was administered by the Prophet (peace be upon him) to some individuals who on various occasions, compelled by their specific personal circumstances wanted to understand as to whether it was permissible

for the Muslims. Many who enquired about its permissibility from the Prophet got the reply in the negative, to some the Prophet remarked that it was undesirable and in some cases either he kept quiet or gave assent. Out of these various replies that were given specifically for the individual cases concerned, keeping in view their special circumstances and requirements, even if we take only these replies that affirm or permit it, the permission is for particular individual cases only. There is no justification on their basis to claim that Islam approves a popular movement of birth control. And we have seen that there is a world of difference between its adoption on individual plane in a private situation and a popular movement to make it a national policy. To ignore the difference between the two and making the one permissible on the false analogy of the other is unjustified on every canon of reasoning.

As far as the question of a full-fledged movement directed to limit or stop procreation is concerned, its whole scheme—its basic idea, its method and means, its practical consequences, all are repugnant to Islam. What else is its basic idea than the apprehension that with the rise of population means of subsistence will fall short and life will not be easy to support. But the Qur'an regards this attitude of mind as wrong, misconceived, and unfounded. It tries to repeatedly inculcate in man that it is the Creator who provides food and sustenance. He is not engaged in creating, without any scheme and programme, unmindful whether the earth can sustain His creatures. Neither He has

delegated this responsibility to someone else : as if is creation His responsibility and provision for the means of livelihood rests in the hands of someone else. He is not merely the Creator, He is the Provider too, and He Himself knows best what His responsibilities are. This theme has been so thoroughly dealt with in the Qur'an that to quote all the relevant verses will be a lengthy affair. Hence we shall refer to only a few of them :

> "And how many a living creature that does not carry its sustenance : Allah sustains it and yourselves."[188]

> "And there is no animal in the earth but on Allah is the sustenance of it."[189]

> "Surely Allah is the Bestower of sustenance, the Lord of Power, the Strong."[190]

> "His are the treasures of the heavens and the earth ; He makes ample and straitens the means of subsistence for whom He pleases."[191]

> "And We have made in it (the earth) means of subsistence for you and for those others for whom you are the nourishers. And there is not a thing but with Us are the treasures of it, and We do not send it down but in a known measure."[192]

After stating these facts of life, the Qur'an explains that it is now for man to seek and procure his means of

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188. *Al-Qur'an*, 29 : 60.
189. *Ibid.*, 11 : 6.
190. *Ibid.*, 51 : 58.
191. *Ibid.*, 42 : 12.
192. *Ibid.*, 15 : 20-21.

livelihood from out the vast treasures scattered all over the earth and within it. In other words, God has made the provision and it is the responsibility of man to search for it and play his part therein.

> "Therefore seek the sustenance from Allah and serve Him and be grateful to Him : to Him you shall be brought back."[193]

Another aspect that deserves to be noted is that the Qur'an deplores the attitude of those persons and tribes who in the days of ignorance used to kill their children for fear of lack of food :

> "And do not slay your children for (fear of) poverty—We provide for you and shall as well provide for them.[194]

> "And do not kill your children for fear of poverty ; We shall give them sustenance and yourselves too".[195]

In these verses admonition is not for one but for two things : First, they used to kill their offspring and this is forbidden. Second, they used to regard children as a source of their poverty. Hence their second misconception has been removed by saying as to why at all they regard themselves to be the provider for their offspring. Only He provides food for them and as well as for their children. And so if infanticide is not committed to stop growth of population, but such other means are adopted which may not permit conception to take place, it would at most be avoiding

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193. *Al-Qur'an*, 29 : 17.
194. *Ibid.*, 6 : 152.
195. *Ibid.*, 17 : 31.

the first mistake. The second misconception, the explicit reason which motivated them for one form of crime, shall still persist. If the fear of scarcity of resources and of food, as a motive for stopping procreation, assumes a new form and if behaviour is motivated by this reason which the Qur'an has strictly forbidden, even the change of form would not take the stink out of the situation. The Qur'an strikes at this mentality and does not want this to persist. This is what the Qur'an has to say about the attitude of mind that has given birth to the idea of limiting the population, may be in our era or in any other period of history.

Now we would like to make a final submission. Look at the consequences that inevitably follow if this idea is given the form of a social movement, and then try to realize whether Islam can tolerate any of the consequences that are bound to tolerate any of the way of life which regards promiscuity as the gravest of moral crimes, and for which it prescribes the most severe of all punishments, could any one expect that it would tolerate a movement which must give rise to the evil of promiscuity and illicit sex. In the presence of a scheme of life that encourages feelings of compassion, love and sympathy, can it ever exhibit any complacency towards a root-force that produces selfishness and greed, a mentality which must gain ground alongwith any nation-wide publicity campaign for birth control. And then, how a socio-political power—Islam—which cares for the safety and security of the *Ummah* could tolerate a movement that may result in further reducing the number of Muslims—already too little—specially when

surrounded by hostile forces all around. These aspects are so explicit, so unequivocal and so self-evident that a little commonsense is sufficient to appreciate their significance to Islam and to see that Islam can never sanction such a policy of race-destruction. There is hardly any need of quoting any more from the Qur'an and the Sunnah. The incompatibility of the two is writ large on the wall. And the writing on the wall must not be ignored.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

This article was first written in 1935. Since then most of the relevant material that has been available on the subject remained under constant study but I could not get an opportunity to revise and compile it in the form of a book. When much time elapsed and I visualised that I may not get the required time and leisure in the near future, I thought it advisable, in view of the pressing need for a treatise on this topic, to publish the material as it first broke in print. Hence this book.

The danger that I had visualised about seven or eight years ago and which had prompted me to write something on the subject has not at all lessened during this period, rather, it has increased manifold, and I fear it would be further enhanced after the World War. It is, therefore, a need of the hour to discuss the issue threadbare with the hope that it might open the eyes of those who adopt as Gospel truth everything that happens to come from the West.[1] During the War, a mighty world power *i.e.*, France, has suffered colossal consequences of the ethico-social and cultural policies which had been adopted under the obnoxious influences of the unrestricted-liberalism of the

1. West is used not in contrast to the East (or the Communist bloc). For our purposes 'Western' is a general term denoting all those ideas, attitudes and practices, irrespective of the fact that they originate in Russia or America, which are a product of the materialistic and sensate culture of the West. From this viewpoint the similar movements of Europe and America and the Communist movement or Russia, China or Eastern Europe have not much of a difference.

eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A country which had been one of the greatest powers of the world for such a long time seems to be fast becoming a third rate power. Its empire which extends to four continents is speedily shrinking and withering away. Marshall Petaine has confessed the defeat of France in June, 1940 and all humiliations it entailed were a direct consequence of their self-indulgence, lust and sensuality.[2] Many statesmen and thinkers are suggesting that one of the most important factors responsible for France's defeat was its constantly dwindling birth rate.

Great Britain, another important world power too, is facing the same danger. Winston Churchill's son, Randolf Churchill, has recently expressed his concern to the effect that he wanted his nation to take serious cognisance of the danger threatening it because of the declining birth rate, as a result whereof the population of Britain may be reduced to a mere four millions within a century. With such a small number the nation is not likely to play any great role among the comity of nations. While discussing the consequence that might befall as a result of the fast deterioration in birth rate, he is said to have remarked: Englishmen are almost obsessed with their social status, which they try to maintain at all costs. They are afraid that more than one or two children might make it difficult for them to maintain the high standard of life and education they aspire for and which is enjoyed by their neighbours and their children.

2. Marshall Petaine said that "too few children" was the basic cause of France's defeat.

This is not the story of one or two countries only. Many of the European countries which suffered humiliating defeats during this war were a prey to similar cultural notions. They adopted ways which ultimately sapped their vitality. Despite that, there are persons who are not prepared to learn any lesson from it. They are victims of the jargon of pseudo-scientific terminology. Although human experience and reason have exposed the weakness of the policy of birth control, there are people who prefer to remain blind to them.

Although in this study I have primarily been concerned with the question of birth control and a refutation of its basic concept and purpose, I have also dealt with the socio-cultural and philosophical issues in their widest context which if considered in an unbiased way might be helpful in opening new vistas of thought and action and carve out a course of life that may be different from the beaten track on which the West has been treading. If this treatise is studied along with my books *Family Law of Islam and Woman in Islam* they might be useful in understanding the social order envisaged by Islam and its philosophical basis.

Dar al-Islam,
Pathankot,
9 March, 1943.

ABUL A'LA MAUDUDI